

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,  
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4140**  
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2017

**RIVER WATER DISPUTES**

4140. SHRI M.B. RAJESH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether inter-State disputes over river water are becoming increasingly intense and widespread in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the list of such disputes, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is unable to provide clean water that can be consumed from the tap on a 24x7 basis in any single Indian city and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ground water extraction is growing and its levels are now declining steadily in the country and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that the levels in some parts are declining by more than one metre per year and if so, the details thereof, location-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/to be taken to overcome the situation?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION  
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) On the complaint made by the State Governments, the Central Government has, so far, set up 08 tribunals to settle water disputes among the States under the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956. The present status of various inter-State water disputes over the sharing of river water is at **Annexure I.**

Government of Bihar sent a request on 27.11.2013 under provision of ISRWD Act, 1956 to this Ministry for constitution of a Tribunal for adjudication of river water disputes related to Sone basin. Negotiations were carried out by the Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission and the Chairman, Central Water Commission with the States of U.P. and Bihar. It was agreed that the two States of U.P. and Bihar would meet periodically and try to solve the issue bilaterally. The dispute has since been settled.

State of Odisha has also filed complaint dated 19.11.2017 under Section 3 of ISRWD Act, 1956 with respect to Mahanadi basin. The Central Government has constituted a Negotiation Committee comprising members from basin States and concerned Ministries of Central Government, Central Water Commission, India Metrological Department, National Institute of Hydrology for settlement of the dispute through negotiation. The Negotiation Committee held two meetings on 28.02.2017 and 22.05.2017 and submitted its report in which it mentioned that that any further meetings of this Committee would not

be fruitful as there had been no participation from complainant State i.e. State of Odisha in both the meetings. Accordingly, the Ministry concluded that the dispute cannot be resolved by negotiation and it has been decided to constitute a Tribunal for adjudication of the dispute. Draft Cabinet Note in this regard has been prepared.

The mechanism for settlement of water disputes is already available in the form of ISRWD Act, 1956. The ISRWD Act, 1956 has been last amended in 2002 whereby adjudication of the water disputes by tribunals has been made time bound. Further, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation adopted a revised National Water Policy (NWP) in 2012. As per Clause 12.2 of the Policy, a permanent Water Disputes Tribunal at the Centre should be established to resolve the disputes expeditiously in an equitable manner. In this regard, a Bill has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 14.03.2017 to amend the existing ISRWD Act, 1956. The Bill has further been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources by the Hon'ble Speaker vide order dated 14.03.2017 for examination. In this regard, three meetings of the Committee have been held on 16.06.2017, 30.06.2017 and 10.07.2017.

(b) "Water supplies" is a State subject and as such the Central Government is not involved in providing day-to-day water supplies. The public water supply system is organised and maintained by the public utilities owned by the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) or the State Departments such as the Public Health Engineering Department or Agencies such as Water Supply Boards. Though most cities in India do not get water supply on 24 x 7 basis, there are certain pilot projects implemented in cities like Hubli- Dharwad in Karnataka and Nagpur in Maharashtra. The water supply whether supplied on 24 x 7 basis or on intermittent basis by the public utilities has to be as per the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) - Drinking Water Standards IS 10500-2012. While water coming out of the treatment plants or service reservoirs is treated, however, the quality may deteriorate sometimes before it reaches the household taps. The ideal system is to provide 24 X 7 water supply similar to electricity supply in which the pipes are continuously pressurised with treated water and no household storage is necessary. But such a system is not prevalent in India as the community itself does not demand 24 x7 water supply preferring to receive water once or twice a day and store it in their own containers and vessels. The households which can afford are also using the point of use treatment units such as filters and R.O. systems. Hence, switching to 24 x 7 water supply requires the administrative, social as well as economic analysis, reengineering and behavioural change.

(c) to (e) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out ground water monitoring, four times a year, on regional scale through a network of observation wells in the Country. In order to assess the decline in water level on a long term basis, Premonsoon water level data collected by CGWB during Premonsoon 2017 has been compared with the decadal average (2007-2016). The tabular statement of state wise details is given in **Annexure II**.

The analysis of water level data indicates that about 61% of the wells monitored have registered decline in ground water level largely in the range of 0 – 2 m. Decline of more than 4 m has also been observed in pockets of most of the States/ UTs except Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Meghalaya, and Tripura. The decline in ground water level can be attributed to several factors including growing extraction of ground water for utilisation.

Steps taken to control the decline in ground water level include –

- The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need to augment the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/ UTs and concerned Ministries/ Departments of Central Government for adoption.
- CGWB has also prepared a conceptual document entitled “Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India” during 2013, involving ground water scientists/experts. The Master Plan envisages construction of 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country at an estimated cost of Rs.79,178 crores to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for adoption.
- Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under “The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986” for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. So far, CGWA has notified 162 areas in the Country.
- CGWA has issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in Building Bye-Laws or through suitable Government Orders.
- This Ministry has circulated a Model Ground Water Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rainwater harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model Ground Water Bill.
- CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme (NAQUIM) under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans, with community participation. So far about 6.3 lakh sq.km has been covered under NAQUIM in the entire country.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNEXURE I**

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4140 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2017 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “ **RIVER WATER DISPUTES**”

**Status of Inter-State water disputes over the sharing of river water under Tribunals**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of Tribunal</b>	<b>States concerned</b>	<b>Date of constitution</b>	<b>Present Status</b>
1	Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh & Odisha	April, 1969	Award given on July, 1980
2	Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal -I	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka,	April, 1969	Award given on May, 1976
3	Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra	October, 1969	Award given on December, 1979
4	Ravi & Beas Water Tribunal	Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan	April, 1986	Report and decision under section 5(2) given in April, 1987. Clarification/explanation sought from the Tribunal under Section 5(3) of the said Act by the party States. Presidential Reference 1 of 2004 was made on the Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has pronounced the judgement on Presidential Reference in negative. Further, Government of Haryana has filed IA No. 6 of 2016 in OS No. 6 of 1996 in the matter. The matter is subjudice.
5	Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puduchery	June, 1990	Report and decision given on 5.2.2007 which was published vide Notification dated 19.2.2013. Further, party States and Central government has sought clarification under section 5(3) of the Act. The work on report of CWDT u/s 5(3) of the Act could not be taken up as the party have also filed Civil Appeals against the order of CWDT dated 5.2.2007 before the Supreme Court. Supreme Court has passed a judgement dated 09.12.2016 on the admissibility of Civil Appeals filed by the party States and upheld the maintainability of the Civil Appeals. As such the matter is subjudice.
6	Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal -II	Karnataka, Telengana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra	April, 2004	Report and decision given on 30.12. 2010. Further report given by the Tribunal on 29.11.2013. However, as per Supreme Court Order dated 16.9.2011, till further order, decision taken by the Tribunal on references filed by States and Central Government shall not be published in the official Gazette. As such, matter is sub-judice. Term of the Tribunal was extended for a period of two years w.e.f. 1 <sup>st</sup> August, 2014 to address the terms of reference as contained in section 89 of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. Thereafter, the term of the Tribunal has been extended twice for one year each viz. for a period of one year w.e.f. 01.08.2016 and for

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of Tribunal</b>	<b>States concerned</b>	<b>Date of constitution</b>	<b>Present Status</b>
				a period of one year w.e.f. 01.08.2017. The matter is under adjudication in the Tribunal. The Government of Telengana has filed a SLP 33623-26 of 2014 and WP(C) 545 of 2015 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter. The matter is thus sub-judice.
7	Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha	February, 2010 However, as per the Supreme Court order the date of reckoning of the constitution of the Tribunal is w.e.f. 17.9.2012	Report and decision not given by the Tribunal. Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal in its Interim Order dated 17.12.2013 has directed to constitute a 3-member Protem Supervisory Flow Management and Regulation Committee on River Vansadhara to implement its Order. State Govt. of Odisha has filed Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) No.3392 of 2014 with regard to the Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal Judgement dated 17.12.2013. The matter is sub-judice.
8	Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra	November, 2010 However, vide notification dated 13.11.2014 date of reckoning of the constitution of the Tribunal is w.e.f. 21.08.2013	Report and Decision not given by the Tribunal u/s 5(2) of ISRWD Act, 1956.

**Annexure-II**

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) to (e) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4140 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2017 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “ RIVER WATER DISPUTES ”

S. No.	Name of State	No. of wells Analysed	Range in m				Rise						Fall						Rise		Fall		Wells showing no change	
			Rise		Fall		0-2 m		2-4 m		>4 m		0-2 m		2-4 m		>4 m		No	%	No	%	No	%
			Min	Max	Min	Max	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Andhra Pradesh	751	0.01	11.25	0.02	10.79	153	20.4	19	2.5	12	1.6	399	53.1	104	13.8	60	8.0	184	25	563	75	4	0.5
2	Arunachal Pradesh	12	0.32	11.28	0.68	1.2	7	58.3	1	8.3	1	8.3	3	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	75	3	25	0	0.0
3	Assam	164	0.02	7.64	0.02	5.2	63	38.4	6	3.7	2	1.2	84	51.2	7	4.3	1	0.6	71	43	92	56	1	0.6
4	Bihar	625	0.01	5.25	0.01	6.32	315	50.4	38	6.1	9	1.4	218	34.9	36	5.8	4	0.6	362	58	258	41	5	0.8
5	Chandigarh	10	0.16	0.16	0.26	23.05	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	60.0	2	20.0	1	10.0	1	10	9	90	0	0.0
6	Chhattisgarh	566	0.01	18.68	0.01	18.4	153	27.0	41	7.2	25	4.4	252	44.5	55	9.7	39	6.9	219	39	346	61	1	0.2
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	16	0.27	8.25	0.02	4.62	3	18.8	1	6.3	2	12.5	7	43.8	2	12.5	1	6.3	6	38	10	63	0	0.0
8	Daman & Diu	11	0.01	1.48	0.19	4.64	7	63.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	18.2	1	9.1	1	9.1	7	64	4	36	0	0.0
9	Delhi	94	0.05	8	0	8.81	23	24.5	7	7.4	3	3.2	27	28.7	16	17.0	18	19.1	33	35	61	65	0	0.0
10	Goa	65	0	9.05	0.03	1.56	33	50.8	14	21.5	3	4.6	15	23.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	50	77	15	23	0	0.0

11	Gujarat	799	0	16.72	0.01	18.31	220	27.5	61	7.6	20	2.5	282	35.3	98	12.3	93	11.6	301	38	473	59	25	3.1
12	Haryana	302	0.01	5.52	0.01	13.14	85	28.1	6	2.0	4	1.3	113	37.4	50	16.6	44	14.6	95	31	207	69	0	0.0
13	Himachal Pradesh	90	0.01	8.85	0.02	5.02	27	30.0	3	3.3	3	3.3	44	48.9	11	12.2	2	2.2	33	37	57	63	0	0.0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	226	0.01	6.37	0	7.52	67	29.6	4	1.8	4	1.8	131	58.0	16	7.1	4	1.8	75	33	151	67	0	0.0
15	Jharkhand	218	0.02	5.26	0.01	6.71	72	33.0	16	7.3	2	0.9	103	47.2	18	8.3	7	3.2	90	41	128	59	0	0.0
16	Karnataka	1421	0.01	12.62	0.0	16.87	315	22.2	66	4.6	42	3.0	605	42.6	220	15.5	160	11.3	423	30	985	69	13	0.9
17	Kerala	1366	0.0	7.8	0.0	9.41	374	27.4	26	1.9	5	0.4	838	61.3	95	7.0	24	1.8	405	30	957	70	4	0.3
18	Madhya Pradesh	1318	0.01	13.01	0.01	18.06	485	36.8	116	8.8	59	4.5	509	38.6	93	7.1	56	4.2	660	50	658	50	0	0.0
19	Maharashtra	1562	0.0	13.94	0.0	14.85	474	30.3	119	7.6	74	4.7	604	38.7	191	12.2	92	5.9	667	43	887	57	8	0.5
20	Meghalaya	20	0.24	2.07	0.06	1.8	5	25.0	1	5.0	0	0.0	14	70.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	30	14	70	0	0.0
21	Odisha	1283	0.01	7.8	0.01	10.77	460	35.9	43	3.4	3	0.2	683	53.2	77	6.0	13	1.0	506	39	773	60	4	0.3
22	Pondicherry	5			0.07	4.34	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	80.0	0	0.0	1	20.0	0	0	5	100	0	0.0
23	Punjab	234	0.0	6.53	0.01	17.32	33	14.1	2	0.9	1	0.4	115	49.1	42	17.9	41	17.5	36	15	198	85	0	0.0

<b>24</b>	<b>Rajastha n</b>	859	0.0	17.42	0.01	17.6	236	27.5	100	11.6	95	11.1	226	26.3	72	8.4	130	15.1	431	50	428	50	0	0.0
<b>25</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	536	0.0	15.77	0.03	16.71	47	8.8	10	1.9	14	2.6	187	34.9	127	23.7	151	28.2	71	13	465	87	0	0.0
<b>26</b>	<b>Telanga na</b>	586	0.01	16.88	0	19.3	202	34.5	74	12.6	39	6.7	175	29.9	48	8.2	44	7.5	315	54	267	46	4	0.7
<b>27</b>	<b>Tripura</b>	26	0.05	2.71	0.09	3.49	16	61.5	2	7.7	0	0.0	6	23.1	2	7.7	0	0.0	18	69	8	31	0	0.0
<b>28</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	637	0.01	7.54	0	11.03	158	24.8	20	3.1	9	1.4	365	57.3	65	10.2	20	3.1	187	29	450	71	0	0.0
<b>29</b>	<b>Uttarak hand</b>	46	0.02	7.8	0.01	7.77	13	28.3	6	13.0	2	4.3	16	34.8	7	15.2	1	2.2	21	46	24	52	1	2.2
<b>30</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	617	0.01	13.53	0.01	17	247	40.0	45	7.3	35	5.7	221	35.8	46	7.5	22	3.6	327	53	289	47	1	0.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>14465</b>					<b>4294</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>6254</b>	<b>43.2</b>	<b>1501</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>5609</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>8785</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>0.5</b>