

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,  
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3330**  
ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018

**TRIBUNALS FOR RIVER WATER SHARING DISPUTES AMONGST STATES**

3330. SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN

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

- (a) whether certain tribunals have been constituted for settlement of river water sharing disputes amongst States in the country so far and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (b) whether these tribunals are taking much time to finalize the disputes and if so, the details thereof by mentioning the outcome of each tribunal;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make any solution to the situation arising due to river water sharing disputes amongst States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action to be taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) The Parliament has enacted Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 for adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers and river valley thereof. When any request under the said Act is received from any State Government in respect of any water dispute on the inter-State rivers and the Central Government is of the opinion that the water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, the Central Government constitutes a Water Disputes Tribunal for the adjudication of the water dispute.

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 ISRWD Act, 1956. The present status of various inter-State water disputes over the sharing of river water is at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d) In order to further streamline the adjudication of inter-State river water disputes, the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 has been introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister for WR, RD & GR on 14.03.2017. The Bill envisages to constitute a standalone Tribunal with permanent establishment and permanent office space and infrastructure so as to obviate with the need to set up a separate tribunal for each water dispute which is invariably a time-consuming process. The proposed amendments in the Bill will speed up the adjudication of water disputes referred to it. The Bill was referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources for examination. The Standing Committee has submitted its recommendation on the Bill vide Lok Sabha Secretariat letter dated 11.08.2017 in the form of 'Nineteenth Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources on The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017'. Accordingly, the Ministry has prepared draft Cabinet Note for Official Amendments to Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

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**Annexure referred to in reply to Parts (a) & (b) of the Unstarred Question No. 3330 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 15.03.2018 regarding “Tribunals for River Water Sharing Disputes amongst States”**

**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. The party States have also filed Civil Appeals against the order of CWDT dated 5.2.2007 before the Supreme Court. In this regard, the Supreme Court has pronounced its verdict 16.02.2018.
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

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of Tribunal</b>	<b>States concerned</b>	<b>Date of constitution</b>	<b>Present Status</b>
				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 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	The Tribunal has submitted its report to the Central Government under Section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 on 13.09.2017. Further, State of Odisha and the Central Government have filed reference under Section 5(3) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 on 11.12.2017 and 12.12.2017 respectively. The matter is thus under adjudication in the Tribunal.
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.

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