

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4538
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2018

CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS ON MAHANADI RIVER

4538. DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH

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

- (a) whether the construction of multiple dams in the upstreams of Mahanadi basin in Chhattisgarh has adversely affected the flow of water in the down streams of Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether irrigation problems have arisen as a result of the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to resolve the issue?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d) Government of Odisha submitted a complaint dated 19.11.2016 to the Union Government on Mahanadi River Water Dispute under Section 3 of the Inter-State River Water Dispute (ISRWD) Act, 1956. In the complaint Government of Odisha, inter-alia, raised the issue of likely effect of flow on downstream due to construction of projects upstream by Government of Chhattisgarh.

Simultaneously, Government of Odisha filed an Original Suit (No. 1 of 2017, State of Odisha vs. State of Chhattisgarh & Ors.) in the Hon'ble Supreme Court and prayed to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for:

- “(i) *restraining from continuing with the construction of six ongoing industrial barrages, namely, Samoda, Seorinarayan, Basantpur, Mirouni, Sardiha and Kalma, pending constitution of the Tribunal as sought in the complaint dated 21.11.2016 filed by Government of Odisha for resolution of water disputes in respect of waters of the Mahanadi Basin;*
- (ii) *restraining from continuing with the construction and operation of 7 ongoing projects for utilization of 2.95 MAF of water annually viz. Kelo, Arpa-Bhaisajhar Barrage, Sondhur, Rajiv Samodanisda diversion project phase-II, Mongra Barrage, Ph-II Sukhanalla Barrage and Ghumarya Nalla Barrage, pending constitution of the Tribunal as sought in the complaint dated 21.11.2016 filed by Government of Odisha for resolution of water disputes in respect of waters of the Mahanadi Basin; and*

(iii) *restraining from taking up any projects against the category of future projects mentioned in the letter dated 27.8.2016 of State of Chhattisgarh in annexure P-1, pending constitution of the Tribunal as sought in the complaint dated 21.11.2016 filed by Government of Odisha for resolution of water disputes in respect of waters of the Mahanadi Basin”.*

The Hon’ble Supreme Court concluded the hearing on 23.01.2018 and passed final order as follows:

“We, therefore, have no hesitation in directing that the Central Government shall issue appropriate notification in the Official Gazette and constitute a Water Disputes Tribunal for adjudication of the water dispute between the parties herein within a period of one month from today. Accordingly, the plaint in Original Suit No. 1 of 2017 is returned to the plaintiff for its presentation and adjudication by the Water Disputes Tribunal to be newly constituted by the Central Government”.

As per the above Supreme Court Order, Odisha has to present its plaint for adjudication to the Mahanadi River Water Dispute Tribunal.

Union Government has constituted Mahanadi River Water Dispute Tribunal vide Gazette Notification dated 12.3.2018.
