

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 628
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021

DISPUTE ON CONSTRUCTION OF DAM ON MAHANADI RIVER

628. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the measures taken/being taken by the Union Government to resolve the dispute between Governments of Odisha and Chhattisgarh pertaining to construction of dams on Mahanadi River have achieved the desired results;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the present status of such dispute;
- (c) whether the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal constituted by the Union Government under Section 4 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 has determined water sharing among States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the time by which it is likely to be determined; and
- (e) the other corrective steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to resolve the said disputes and to address the concerns of the Government of Odisha?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) to (d) The Central Government has constituted Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal on 12.03.2018 under Section 4 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 (as amended) for adjudication of water dispute regarding the inter-state river Mahanadi. At present the dispute is under adjudication in the Tribunal under Section 5 (2) of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 (as amended). As per Section 5(2) of Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 (as amended) "*The Tribunal shall investigate the matters referred to it and forward to the Central Government a report setting out the facts as found by it and giving its decision on the matters referred to it within a period of three years (emphasis added). Provided that if the decision cannot be given for unavoidable reason, within a period of three years, the Central Government may extend the period for a further period not exceeding two years*". Thereafter, under Section 5(3) of the said Act, the Central Government/State Government(s) may again refer the matter to the Tribunal for further consideration, which may then give its further report within one year, with the option to extend for such further period as Central Government considers necessary.

(e) In order to further streamline the adjudication of inter-State river water disputes by way of amending Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 25.07.2019 and has been considered and passed by Lok Sabha on 31.07.2019. There shall be established a single Tribunal, to be called the Inter-State River Water Disputes Tribunal, in place of multiple Tribunals. The Tribunal will have multiple Benches. Enactment of these amendments will facilitate faster adjudication of water disputes and establish a robust institutional architecture for the purpose. The Bill will be taken up for consideration in Rajya Sabha in due course.
