

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3292

ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

RIVER-BASED INTER-STATE DISPUTES

3292. SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH CHANNI

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any information about river-based inter-state disputes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any specific plan to resolve these disputes, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government has any plan to facilitate coordination among States for equitable water distribution, especially in drought-prone areas, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) 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 adjudication of the water dispute.

The Central Government has, so far, set up 09 Tribunals to settle inter-state river water disputes among the States under the ISRWD Act, 1956. The status of various inter-State water disputes Tribunals is at **Annexure.**

Apart from the above, requests in respect of two disputes, i.e. in the Barakar-Dhadhar sub-basins and in the Pennaiyar basin have been received from the State of Bihar and State of Tamil Nadu respectively for the constitution of the Tribunal.

(b) to (c) Request for constitution of the above Water Disputes Tribunals have been submitted by the concerned basin States to the Central Government under Section 3 and Section 14 (regarding Ravi & Beas Water Tribunal) of ISRWD Act, 1956. The procedure for adjudication/resolution of water disputes is already prescribed in the said Act. Regarding equitable water distribution, especially in drought-prone areas, it is to mention that concerned basin States need to include such issues in their request under Section 3 of the Act and need to present their cases before the Tribunal of water allocation/appropriate relief for such areas.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3292 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 20.03.2025 REGARDING “RIVER-BASED INTER-STATE DISPUTES”.

List of Water Disputes Tribunals till date

Sl. No.	Tribunal	Date of formation	Name of River	Party States	Present Status
1	Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT)	April 1969	Godavari	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh & Odisha	Award given in July, 1980.
2	Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-I)	April, 1969	Krishna	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka	Award Given in May, 1976.
3	Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT)	October, 1969	Narmada	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat & Maharashtra	Award given in December, 1979.
4	Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal (RBWT)	02.04.1986	Ravi & Beas	Punjab, Haryana & Rajasthan	Report and decision under section 5(2) of ISRWD Act, 1956 given in April 1987. Clarification/explanation were sought from the Tribunal under section 5(3) of the said Act by the party States and Central Government. The matter is sub-judice.
5	Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT)	02.06.1990	Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu & Puduchery	Report and decision under section 5(2) of ISRWD Act, 1956 given on 05.02.2007 and published vide Notification dated 19.02.2013. Pursuant to Supreme Court final verdict dated 16.02.2018, the Tribunal was dissolved vide Notification dated 16.07.2018.
6	Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-II)	02.04.2004	Krishna	Maharashtra, Karnataka & Pesent Andhra Pradesh, Telangana	Report and decision under section 5(2) of ISRWD Act, 1956 given on 30.12.2010. Further report under section 5(3) given by the Tribunal on 29.11.2013. However, as per Supreme Court Order dated 16.09.2011, till further order, report/decision of the Tribunal shall not be published in the official Gazette. The Tribunal is currently hearing matters as per section 89 of Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act, 2014.
7	Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal (VWDT)	24.02.2010 (effective date 17.09.2012)	Vansadhara	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha	Report and decision under section 5(2) of ISRWD Act, 1956 given on 13.09.2017. Further report under section 5(3) given by the Tribunal on 21.06.2021. Tribunal has been dissolved however, further report under section 5(3) as final Award has not been published.
8	Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT)	16.11.2010 (effective date 21.08.2013)	Mahadayi	Goa, Karnataka & Maharashtra	Pursuant to Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 20.02.2020, the Central Government has published MWDT Award dated 14.08.2018 u/s 5(2) vide Notification dated 27.02.2020. Further references under section 5(3) have been filed by the party States and the Central Government before the Tribunal. The matter is sub-judice.
9	Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal	12.03.2018	Mahanadi	Odisha & Chhattisgarh	Matter u/s 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 is sub-judice in the Tribunal.
