

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2200

ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

INTER-STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES

2200. SHRI TANGELLA UDAY SRINIVAS:

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

- (a) the number of inter-State river water disputes presently pending, river and State-wise;
- (b) the details of institutional mechanisms in place for resolution of such disputes including river boards, tribunals, inter-State negotiations and other statutory arrangements and the outcomes achieved during the last ten years;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of economic, agricultural and developmental losses suffered by States due to prolonged pendency of inter-State river water disputes;
- (d) if so, the details of such assessments including estimated economic costs, State-wise;
- (e) the current status of inter-State river water disputes involving Andhra Pradesh including those relating to the Krishna river basin;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to expedite resolution of pending inter-State river water disputes including the Krishna river dispute through legislative, administrative or consensual mechanisms and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the timelines fixed, concrete measures proposed and the steps taken to ensure equitable water sharing and protection of public interest?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

- (a) & (b)** For adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-state rivers and river valley thereof, the Parliament has enacted the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 (hereinafter referred to as the Act). When any request under the Act is received from any State Government in respect of any water dispute on 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. Currently, four Water Disputes Tribunals are active, details of which are given at **Annexure**.
- (c) & (d)** No such assessment of economic, agricultural and developmental losses suffered by States due to prolonged pendency of inter-State River water disputes has been conducted.

(e) The State of Andhra Pradesh is involved in the ongoing Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT-II). The KWDT-II has given its report and decision under Section 5(3) of the Act on 29.11.2013 recommending allocating of water amongst the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. However, on account of stay by Supreme Court vide its order dated 16.09.2011, the award could not be published in the Official Gazette in terms of Section 6(1) of the Act, and the matter is still sub-judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Subsequently, in view of the fact that the adjudication by KWDT-II on the terms of reference specified in section 89 of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, was still going on, the tenure of the Tribunal had been extended, year by year. Meanwhile, the Central Government has also referred the further Terms of References to the existing KWDT-II for adjudication the Krishna waters dispute between the States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana only vide notification dated 06.10.2023. Presently, the term of the Tribunal has been extended for a further period of one year from 01.08.2025 i.e. till 31.07.2026 vide Gazette Notification dated 10.07.2025.

(f) & (g) Presently, the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, 1956 as amended from time to time, is the legal mechanism available for resolution of inter-State River water disputes. The procedure and timeline for adjudication/resolution of water disputes is already laid down in the said Act. The Act stipulates establishment of Tribunal for adjudication of river disputes, and accordingly, in Krishna River water dispute, KWDT-II has been constituted.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2200 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.02.2026 REGARDING “INTER-STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES”.

List of ongoing Water Disputes Tribunals

Sl. No.	Tribunal	Date of formation	Name of River	Party States	Present Status
1	Ravi Beas Waters Tribunal (RBWT)	02.04.1986	Ravi & Beas	Punjab, Haryana & Rajasthan	Report and decision under section 5(2) of ISRWD Act was submitted to Central Government. Matters u/s 5(3) of the Act are sub-judice in Tribunal. The Tenure of Tribunal has been extended till 05.08.2026.
2	Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II)	02.04.2004	Krishna	Maharashtra, Karnataka & Present Andhra Pradesh, Telangana	Further report under section 5(3) given by the Tribunal on 29.11.2013. However, as per Supreme Court Order dated 16.9.2011, 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 Reorganisation Act, 2014. Tenure of Tribunal extended till 31.07.2026.
3	Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT)	16.11.2010 (effective date 21.08.2013)	Mahadayi	Goa, Karnataka & Maharashtra	The Tribunal submitted its report and decision under Section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 to Central Government on 14.8.2018. 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 No. S.O. 888(E) 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. Tenure of Tribunal extended for further one year till 15.08.2026.
4	Mahanadi Tribunal	12.03.2018	Mahanadi	Odisha & Chhattisgarh	Matter u/s 5(2) of the Act under is sub-judice in Tribunal. Tenure of Tribunal extended till 13.04.2026.
