

Polavaram Irrigation Project

1996. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the status of Polavaram Irrigation Project;
- (b) the area of land and the number of villages which would be submerged in water in Odisha and Chhattisgarh; and
- (c) whether adequate funds have been provided for construction of protective embankment?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI GHULAMNABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the works of Polavaram dam project of Andhra Pradesh were commenced in October 2004 and are programmed to be completed by June, 2018. Without protective embankments, in Odisha, there will be submergence of 4 villages and 648.05 hectare of land, whereas in Chhattisgarh, there will be submergence of 8 villages and 795.59 hectare of land.

(c) As per the information furnished by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, provision for adequate funds for construction of protective embankments has been made in the Project Estimates and the Government of Andhra Pradesh is ready to deposit the entire amount with respective States for this purpose. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to provide protective embankments at a cost of Rs.621.64 crore.

Setting up Inter-State River Water Dispute Tribunal

1997. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various inter-State water disputes which are yet to be settled and the tribunal set up for the purpose under Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, tribunal-wise;
- (b) whether Government has proposed changes in the said Act to resolve water sharing disputes between basin States;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether all stakeholders including the States have been consulted in the matter and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI GHULAMNABI AZAD): (a) The following water disputes referred to the Tribunals under Inter State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 are yet to be settled.

Sl. No.	Name of Tribunal	States concerned	Date of constitution	Present Status
1	Ravi & Beas Water Tribunal	Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan	April, 1986	Report and decision under section 5(2) given in April, 1987. A Presidential Reference in the matter is before Supreme Court and as such the matter is sub-judice.
2	Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II	Karnataka, 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 Government shall not be published in the official Gazette. As such, matter is sub-judice.
3	Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal	Andhra Pradesh and Odisha	February, 2010	Report and decision not given by the Tribunal. State of Odisha has filed an SLP in Supreme Court against the appointment of Justice Shri Ghulam Mohammad, Member of the Tribunal. As such matter is sub-judice.
4	Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal	Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra	November, 2010	Report and Decision not given by the Tribunal.
5	Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puduchery	June, 1990	Report and decision given on 5.2.2007 which was published <i>vide</i> Notification dated 19.2.2013. Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by party States in Hon'ble Supreme Court pending and as such the matter is sub-judice.

(b) to (d) The ISWRD Act, 1956 has already been amended in the year 2002 in consultation with all the State Governments whereby adjudication of water dispute by the Tribunals was made time bound.

Further, the National Water Policy, 2012 *inter-alia* recommends:

"A permanent Water Disputes Tribunal at the Centre should be established to resolve the disputes expeditiously in an equitable manner. Apart from using the "good offices" of the Union or the State Governments, as the case may be, the paths of arbitration and mediation may also to be tried in dispute resolution."

The Proposal to set up a standing Tribunal to adjudicate inter-state river water disputes in consultation with the stakeholders including the States is at conceptual stage. No time line has been fixed.

Ground water level

1998. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that ground water in many parts of the country is getting dry;

(b) if so, whether any survey have been conducted to find out the areas where ground water is getting dry and what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any technique exists to maintain groundwater levels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when such techniques would be used in those areas where ground water is getting dry?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ground water is continuously being exploited for drinking, irrigation and various other purposes, due to which ground water level in some various parts of the Country has declined. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources carries out ground water monitoring, four times a year in the Country on regional scale. Ground water monitoring data of CGWB for pre-monsoon 2013 as compared with decadal mean of pre-monsoon (2003-2012) indicates that there was a rise in water level in respect of 44% of the wells and fall in 56% of the wells analysed.