

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2483**

ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

**DIVERSION OF MAHADEI RIVER WATER TO NEIGHBOURING STATES**

2483 SHRI LUIZINHO JOAQUIM FALEIRO

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to identify the key issues and risks to Mahadei river basin in Goa which represents 60 per cent of lifeline of the people of Goa due to diversion of water from Mahadei river basin by the neighbouring States of Karnataka and Maharashtra;
- (b) the strategies needed to address the issues both in short and long term;
- (c) whether Government has any plan to appoint a neutral party who could consider the long term goals of the basin; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI  
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) to (d)** The Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, constituted Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT) to adjudicate upon the water dispute regarding the inter-State river Mahadayi. The Tribunal submitted its Report and Decision under section 5(2) of the said Act and the same has been published in the official Gazette on 27.02.2020 as per order of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Tribunal, after examination of the various proposals submitted by the States and keeping in view all available information and particularly from the view point of (a) sustainability of the resource, and (b) ecological needs, permitted the States to undertake specific water resources development activities as stated in clause VIII of its decision. Under clause XII of MWDT decision, there is provision to constitute Mahadayi Water Management Authority to implement the report and final decision of MWDT with its functions and compositions etc. Under para 1349 of its report, MWDT has inter alia mentioned the following functions:

- I. Undertaking investigations / research / studies on all aspects of environmental issues, including that in respect of impact of climate change on water resources etc. and preparation of short term / long term action plans to address the issues.
- II. Preparation of comprehensive plan for sustainable development of water resources with active participation of States.

However, the States of Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra and the Central Government have also filed further references under section 5(3) of the said Act before the Tribunal. As per the provisions under section 5(3) of the said Act, the Central Government, vide Notification dated 21.07.2022, has extended the period of submission of further report by the said Tribunal for a further period of one year with effect from 20.08.2022.