

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 106

ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

CAUVERY RIVER WATER TRIBUNAL AWARD

106. SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Cauvery River Water Tribunal has given an Award for sharing of Cauvery water with other States including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that State Government of Karnataka has been consistently violating the terms of the Award by not releasing water to Tamil Nadu;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to ensure timely and proper release of Cauvery water as per the Award?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) The Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 of Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956, had constituted the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) vide notification No. S.O. 437(E), dated the 2nd June, 1990 to adjudicate upon the water dispute regarding the Inter-State River Cauvery and the river valley thereof among the States of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry.

The Tribunal investigated the matters referred to it and forwarded to the Central Government a report under Sub-Section(2) of section 5 of the ISRWD Act on the 5th February, 2007 and the party States filed Special Leave Petitions in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the said report. The Hon'ble Supreme Court converted the said Special Leave Petitions into Civil Appeals and on directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government of India notified the said report vide S.O. 404(E), dated the 19th February, 2013.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court pronounced its Judgement on the 16th February, 2018 and directed the Central Government to frame a scheme under section 6A of the Act to implement the Tribunal Award as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated the 16th February, 2018. In this regard it was also made clear that in case the yield was less in a distress year, the allocated shares would be proportionately reduced amongst the States involved by the Regulatory Authority.

(c) to (e) In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6A of ISRWD Act, 1956 the Central Government notified the Cauvery Water Management Scheme, *inter alia*, constituting the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) to give effect to the decision of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order, dated 16th February, 2018.

As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 16.02.2018, State of Karnataka would be required to release 177.25 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water at the inter-state contact point with Tamil Nadu, i.e., at Billigundulu in a normal year.

During the current water year 2023-24 (starting from 01.06.2023), the Govt. of Tamil Nadu raised the issue of less realization of Cauvery water at Billigundulu. The matter of quantum of flows to be realized at Billigundulu as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 16.02.2018 has been reviewed in the various meetings of CWMA and CWRC and directions were given to the Member of Karnataka State with regard to the realization of stipulated quantity at Billigundulu after taking into account the prevailing hydro-meteorological conditions in the Cauvery basin. So far, seven meetings of CWMA and eleven meetings of CWRC have been held to resolve the issues regarding distribution of the Cauvery Water, as per the final award of the CWDT, as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Government of Karnataka vide letter dated 21.11.2023 has informed the Chairman, CWMA that the State of Karnataka has complied with all the decisions taken in the CWMA meetings regarding realization of stipulated quantity at Billigundulu.
