

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 100

ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

MAHANADI RIVER DISPUTE

100. SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to expedite the proceeding in the Tribunal for early hearing and final disposal of the Mahanadi River dispute; and
- (b) whether any administrative steps have been taken by the Central Government to settle the dispute outside Tribunal?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (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 (ISRWD) Act, 1956. 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 the adjudication of the said water dispute.

So far as, Mahanadi River water dispute is concerned, the Government of Odisha submitted a complaint dated 19.11.2016 to the Central Government on Mahanadi River Water Dispute under section 3 of the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. The State of Odisha requested to Union Government for constitution of a Tribunal under section 4(1) of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 for adjudication of the water disputes in respect of the inter-State river Mahanadi and its basin between the riparian States of Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

The Central Government constituted a Negotiation Committee for settlement of the dispute through negotiation. The Negotiation Committee submitted its report in May, 2017 in which it was concluded that the dispute cannot be resolved by negotiation. The Government of Odisha also filed Original Suit No.1/2017 before Hon'ble Supreme Court. On the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Central Government constituted Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal vide Gazette Notification dated 12.03.2018 and referred the matter of this water dispute raised by Odisha to the Tribunal in April, 2018 for adjudication. Presently, the matter is sub-judice before the Hon'ble Tribunal.

As per the request of the Tribunal, the Central Government, vide Notification No. SO No. 2734(E), dated 21.06.2023, extended the period of submission of report and decision by the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal for a period on or before the 13th April, 2026, or till the submission of report and decision under sub-section (2) of section 5 of the said Act, whichever is earlier.
