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Title: Need to take urgent steps and impress upon the Chhattisgarh Government to release adequate water to reach Hirakud Raservoir during the non-monsoon period.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, though the tenure of the Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal was over on the 12th of this month and is likely to be extended, no decision is finalised. आपको याद होगा कि 16वीं लोक सभा के सत्र में हमारी इस लोक सभा और राज्य सभा में महानदी के पानी को लेकर काफी हंगामा हुआ करता था। Yet after nineteen hearings, Odisha has got no significant benefit from it even after so many years. The problem is really about the flow of water during non-monsoon season because of the construction of barrages in the upstream by the Chhattisgarh Government. Even now, before the advent of summer, Hirakud Reservoir water level has come down by six feet which has caused large scale anxiety among the people of Odisha. More than fifteen districts are covered by the Mahanadi River and water of Mahanadi is used not only for farming but also for drinking water. The canals and waterways are also served by the Mahanadi River. I would urge upon the Government to take urgent steps and impress upon the Chhattisgarh Government to release adequate water to reach Hirakud Reservoir during the non-monsoon period.

