

Title: Re: Effect of construction of dams by Chhattisgarh across Mahanadi river and its impact on Hirakud dam in Odisha.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, Chhattisgarh unilaterally planned illegal obstruction of 24.50 million Acre Feet (MAF) of Mahanadi river water. This is disclosed in their letter on 27th August, 2016,

As per 1947 report of Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Commission on the Mahanadi Valley Development ? Hirakud Dam Project, the minimum flow of 20.61 MAF of water was apportioned and Odisha was permitted to use 12.28 MAF of water and the rest for the upstream States. After much persuasion, the Union Government did not act. Ultimately Odisha Government went to the Apex Court and it referred the matter to be decided by a Tribunal. The Tribunal after formation has already had 33 sittings and one does not know how many more sittings are to be held. The Tribunal was supposed to give its report within a certain time period.

I would urge upon the Government to find out whether the State of Chhattisgarh during its project planning has considered the MoEF Guidelines for minimum environment flow? How many water arresting structures have been constructed by Chhattisgarh across Mahanadi? Whether dams inside Mahanadi basin of Chhattisgarh are being operated by any SOP (Standard Operating Procedure)? Whether Chhattisgarh has kept any provision in their reservoirs to absorb flood water temporarily for the safety of Hirakud Dam in Odisha? The answer is a big No. Should not the Centre intervene?

Flow of water from Mahanadi has stopped fully before we have reached mid of February, 2023. Still there are four more months of Summer. Today, the water level in the Hirakud Reservoir is 621.97 Feet and 10000 Cusec of water has to flow in the canal system and for power generation also.

I urge upon the Government to ensure flow of water from Chhattisgarh to Mahanadi river as per the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change guidelines.