

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:366
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
INTER- STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES
Fanthome Shri Francis;Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several inter-State water disputes have been pending for several decades;
- (b) the expenditure incurred on resolving these disputes during the said period;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in each of the dispute during the last three years; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to facilitate resolving of such disputes at a quicker pace?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF- UD- DIN SOZ)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 366 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2006 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING INTER-STATE RIVER WATER DISPUTES

(a) ,(c) & (d): As per the Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956, the water dispute arises among two or more State Governments when the Central Government receives request under Section 3 of the Act from any of the basin States with regard to existence of water dispute. The details of the present inter-State water disputes under ISRWD Act, 1956 are as follows:

S.No	River/Rivers	States concerned	Date of Reference to the Central Government	Date of Reference to the Tribunal
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1. Ravi & Beas Punjab, Haryana _____ April, 1986 and Rajasthan
2. Cauvery Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry July, 1986 June, 1990
3. Krishna Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra September, 2002 - April, 2004 January, 2003
4. Madei/Mondovi/ Goa, Karnataka and Mahadayi Maharashtra July, 2002 -
5. Vansadhara Andhra Pradesh & Orissa February, 2006 -

In accordance with the said Act, the Central Government is required to refer a dispute to a Tribunal after it is satisfied that the dispute cannot be settled by negotiations. Accordingly, the water disputes related to Cauvery and Krishna were referred to the Tribunals for adjudication in 1990 and 2004 respectively. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) passed an interim order on 25.6.1991 and the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal passed orders on Interim Relief Applications of the States on 9.6.2006.

The water dispute related to Ravi & Beas was referred to the Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal in 1986 under Section 14 of the said Act. The Ravi-Beas Waters Tribunal (RBWT) submitted its report on 30.1.1987. Party States and Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under section 5(3) of the Act from the Tribunal. The Tribunal has not submitted its further report to the Government.

In respect of Mahadayi/Mandovi River Water Disputes raised by Government of Goa, the Ministry of Water Resources is of the opinion that water dispute contained in the request of Government of Goa cannot be settled by negotiation. The request has been examined in accordance with the provisions of the said Act and found to be not confirming to the provisions of the Act and therefore, the State of Goa has been requested to send a revised request on 21.11.2006.

In respect of Vansadhara Water Dispute, the Central Government has not concluded so far that the dispute cannot be settled by

negotiations.

The mechanism for settlement of water dispute is already available in the form of ISRWD Act, 1956 .The ISRWD Act, 1956 has been amended in the year 2002 whereby the adjudication of the water dispute by the tribunal has been made time-bound.

(b): The expenses incurred by Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal, Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal and Krishna Water Disputes Tribunals since their constitution till November, 2006 is Rs. 5.45 Crore, Rs. 10.43 Crore and 2.05 Crore respectively. Expenditure incurred by tribunals is to be borne by participating States.