

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:341
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010
INTER-STATE WATER DISPUTE
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the meetings of some of the Inter-State water tribunals including Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal have not been held for quite some time;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, tribunal-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government for convening the meetings of these tribunals for resolving the disputes;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make amendments in Inter-State Water Disputes Act and River Board Act; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (c): The Tribunal wise details of meetings of Tribunals constituted under ISRWD Act, 1956 are given as below:

Ravi & Beas Water Tribunal (RWDT) submitted report and decision under section 5(2) of the Inter State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act- 1956 on 30-01-1987. States and Central Government have sought explanations/ guidance under section 5(3) of the Act from Tribunal. The hearing of the Tribunal has been held up since July, 2008 due to a Presidential Reference on the validity of the Punjab Termination of Agreement Act 2004, pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal (CWDT) submitted report and decision under section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 on 05-02-2007. Party States and Central Government have sought explanations/ guidance under section 5(3) of the Act from Tribunal. Further, party States have also filed Special Leave Petitions (SLP's) in Hon'ble Supreme Court against the report and decision of the Tribunal. The Tribunal in its order dated 10th July, 2007 observed that applications u/s 5(3) of the said Act should be listed for orders after disposal of the appeals by the Supreme Court.

The hearing of the matter before Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal (KWDT) is already over and the report and decision is reserved. Some Interlocutory Applications were filed by the Party States, which were heard on 28th, 29th and 30th June 2010 and disposed off by the Tribunal.

(d) & (e): The proposals for amendment to River Board Act, 1956 under entry 56 of Union List & to the Inter-State River Water Dispute Act, 1956 were discussed in the 13th meeting of National Water Board of the National Water Resources Council held on 18-09-2009 at New Delhi. The amendments discussed were regarding restricting further extension beyond one year under Sub-section 3 of Section 5 of ISRWD Act, 1956 for submitting further report by the Tribunal to one year and to provide mandatory role to the River Boards constituted under the River Board Act, 1956.