

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1197  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011  
INTER-STATE WATER DISPUTES  
Deora Shri Milind Murl

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a number of cases of inter-State water disputes are pending in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the status of the pending cases at present;
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure timely settlement of the disputes;
- (d) whether there is an exclusive policy towards water management in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The details of the present inter-State water disputes under Inter State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 are as follows:

S.No. River/Rivers States concerned Date of Reference to the Central Government to the Tribunal Date of Reference to the Tribunal

1. Ravi & Beas Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan \_\_\_\_\_ April, 1986
2. Cauvery Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pudducherry July, 1986 June, 1990
3. Krishna Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra September, 2002- April, 2004  
January, 2003
4. Mahadayi Goa, Karnataka (Mandovi) and Maharashtra July, 2002 November, 2010
5. Vansadhara Andhra Pradesh & Orissa February, 2006 March, 2010

The water dispute related to Ravi & Beas was referred to the Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal (RBWT) in 1986 under Section 14 of the said Act. RBWT submitted its report on 30.1.1987 under section 5(2) of the Act. Party States and Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under section 5(3) of the Act from the Tribunal. Meanwhile, the Government of Punjab enacted Punjab Termination of agreements Act-2004 on 12.7.2004 terminating the water sharing agreements with the co-basin States in this regard. The Central Government has made a Presidential Reference in July, 2004 on the same before Supreme Court and the matter is sub-judice. The Tribunal has not submitted its further report to the Government.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) submitted report and decision under section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 on 5.2.2007. Party States and Central Government have sought guidance/clarification from the tribunal under section 5(3) of the Act. The tribunal has not submitted its further report to the Government. Further, party States have also filed Special Leave Petition (SLP) in Hon'ble Supreme Court against the report and decision of the tribunal as mentioned above.

The effective date of constitution of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal (KWDT) is 1.2.2006. The KWDT forwarded its report and decision under Section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 on 30.12.2010 to the Central Government.

The Vansadhara Water Dispute Tribunal has been constituted by the Central Government on 24.2.2010 and the dispute related to Interstate River Vansadhara has been referred to it for adjudication.

The Mahadayi (Mandovi) Water Dispute Tribunal has been constituted by the Central Government in November, 2010 and the dispute related to Interstate River Mahadayi (Mandovi) has been referred to it for adjudication.

(c) ISRWD Act, 1956 was amended in the year 2002 whereby adjudication of Water Disputes by Tribunals was made time bound

(d) & (e) Various issues related to management of water resources have been addressed in National Water Policy (NWP)-2002. Salient features of National Water Policy are at Annexure.