

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:898
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011
INTER STATE WATER DISPUTES
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of water dispute tribunals presently functioning in the country and the amount being spent by each of the tribunals during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up an Integrated Water Disputes Tribunal for all water disputes;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Punchi Commission has made some recommendations on water disputes; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to implement its recommendations?

Answer

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

(a) The name of the present inter-State water disputes under Inter State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 and expenditure incurred by them during the last three years is given below:

(Rupees in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the Tribunal	Financial year		
		2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
1	Ravi & Beas Water Tribunal	82.66	117.27	83.45
2	Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal	141.15	215.42	223.84
3.	Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal	144.70	178.44	166.77
4.	Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal	-	-	54.97
5.	Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal	-	-	8.45

(b) & (c) The proposal for setting up a standing tribunal for all Inter State River Water Disputes is at conceptual stage at present.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) The Punchi Commission on Centre State Relations has inter alia made following recommendation on water disputes:-

(i) The Tribunal should be a multidisciplinary body presided over by a Judge.

(ii) It should follow a more participatory and conciliatory approach.

(iii) The statute should prescribe a time limit for clarificatory or supplementary orders. Appeals to the Supreme Court should be

prescribed under the statute; and in the long run; and Reference to a Tribunal should be invariably linked with constitution of inter-State River Boards charged with an integrated watershed approach towards inter-State rivers.

(iv) The initiating party must indicate the efforts it has made in resolution of its grievances before a River Board.

(v) The Government of India must indicate the stand it took before the Board and in case a Board has not been constituted the reasons for not having constituted one as well as the likely timeframe in case the process is underway.

These recommendations of Punchi Commission on Centre State Relations is under consideration of Inter State council.