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Title: Regarding sharing of water of Mahadayi River between Karnataka and Goa.

SHRI PRAKASH B. HUKKERI (CHIKKODI): Madam, I would like to raise a very important issue seeking urgent intervention of the hon. Prime Minister over the issue of Mahadayi River water sharing between Karnataka and Goa. ...(*Interruptions*)

Yesterday, the Mahadayi Tribunal has rejected Karnataka's request to allow diversion of Mahadayi river water to provide drinking water to the people of Belagavi, Vijayapura, Dharwad and Gadag districts in the State of Karnataka. ...(*Interruptions*)

There is a severe drinking water shortage in these four districts all over the year particularly during summer months. Since drinking water is a basic necessity, it is the bounden duty of the Government to make drinking water available to the people all over the country irrespective of any State or religion.

Now, the issue of Mahadayi River water sharing needs urgent intervention of the Union Government particularly hon. Prime Minister to find an amicable solution to the water dispute outside the purview of the Tribunal.

People, particularly farmers and members of various organizations from all over the State, have come to the streets in protest of the order of Mahadayi Tribunal to reject Karnataka's request to grant permission for diversion of water.

Last year also people from these districts went on long protests for months in this regard. Protests have spread to all the districts, including Belagavi, Vijayapura, Gadag, Dharwar Districts. Roads connecting Nargund and Navalgund are closed from morning to evening. Educational institutions and commercial establishments have remained shut and economic activities have been hit in all these districts of the State of Karnataka.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Union Government, through you, that hon. Prime Minister should convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of both Karnataka and Goa States to resolve the water dispute issue immediately. Any further delay in solving the issue would affect the law and order situation in the State. Therefore, the hon. Prime Minister should take immediate necessary steps in this regard.

HON. SPEAKER: S/Shri S.P. Muddajamnume Gowda, R.Dhruvanarayana, D.K. Suresh, B.N. Chandrappa, *m06 B.V. Naik are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Prakash B. Hukkeri