

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to sort out the Mahanadi river water sharing dispute

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): Since long Mahanadi river dispute on water sharing persists between Government of Odisha & Chhattisgarh. The Hon'ble Minister had made a statement in the Lok Sabha that Union Government had decided to form a tribunal in order to sort out Mahanadi river water sharing dispute and a similar statement was made on July 31st 2017 in Rajya Sabha also.

But Union Government in an affidavit in the Supreme court informed about its intension to set up a unified river tribunal for all river disputes. Odisha Government had sought a tribunal year ago while law for the unified Tribunal is yet to be enacted. The delay is costing Odisha dearly because the neighbouring state Chhattisgarh is hastily completing various projects taking advantage of the situation. In this situation, formation of Tribunal under section 4(1) of the Inter State Water dispute Act, 1956 is mandatory. Therefore, the Hon'ble Prime Minister must intervene and sort out the dispute by inviting concerned Chief Ministers or else message will go to the people that Government of India is supporting Chhattishgarh State.