

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Regarding illegal construction of barrages on River Hirakud and Mahanadi by the Chhattisgarh Government .

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Speaker Madam, the matter relates to the establishment of inter-State river water tribunal on Mahanadi. We had raised this issue earlier also and I insisted on an adjournment motion today which of course in your wisdom you had disallowed and very rightly allowed us to raise it during Zero Hour because it is a very urgent matter. We had raised the issue earlier and at that time the Minister of Water Resources had made a commitment here, laid bare the facts before this House and before the country that there are certain barrages which have been constructed illegally without the permission of the Union Government. One such barrage was Kalma barrage. Today, there are 15 or 16 barrages that have been constructed in Chhattisgarh on the upstreams of Mahanadi and Hirakud. But Kalma barrage is one barrage where the Union Government has taken cognizance that this has been constructed without the permission of the Central Water Commission. There are six other barrages also which are in dispute. It has always been our concern that during non-monsoon period the flow of water is not there in Mahanadi river.

In 2016-17 we witnessed that there has been a loss of 80 per cent flow in Mahanadi during non-monsoon period. All these facts are being monitored by the Central Water Commission, the Chhattisgarh Government and the Odisha Government. We had gone to the Supreme Court for establishment of a river water dispute tribunal. A Bill is also there to have a permanent river water dispute tribunal at national level. Today, the report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources chaired by Shri Hukum Singh has also been tabled in this House. We have certain concerns relating to the establishment of a permanent river water dispute tribunal. But the establishment of a river water tribunal on Mahanadi is getting delayed. That is why we had gone to Supreme Court in December 2016. Recently on 25th July 2017, the Supreme Court has instructed the Additional Solicitor General, who represented the Central Government, to take instruction on the formation of a tribunal as demanded. This is the latest development.

I think the Minister of Water Resources who is present here in this House is aware of it. Here we are in the month of August. Large parts of Odisha are without water even in monsoon. We want water for irrigation; then we want drinking water and then comes the industry. But what is happening is that the whole water is being blocked in Chhattisgarh and there is a flash flood in the same way as it happened in Subarnrekha river where West Bengal released water बिना बारिश पानी नॉर्थ ओडिशा में आ गया और इसी तरह साउथ ओडिशा में भी पहली बार फ्लैश फ्लड आया था। वहां 20 फिट की ऊंचाई तक पानी आया और उसमें रेल ब्रिज भी ढह गया। सरकार के सामने हमारी दो डिमाण्ड्स हैं - एक, जल्दी से जल्दी रिवर

वाटर डिसप्यूट ट्रिब्यूनल बनाया जाए। Here you are delaying it, and in Chhattisgarh the construction of barrage is continuing. You have to impress upon the Chhattisgarh Government to stop the construction; otherwise, they will construct the barrage and stop the water. The whole of Odisha is charged over this issue. Our demand is that the Central Government should intervene in the matter immediately, establish a river water dispute tribunal and also instruct the Chhattisgarh Government to stop further construction of those disputed barrages.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Venkatesh Babu.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH): Thank you, Madam. ... (*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : बैठिए। जिनको कबूल किया है, उनको पहले मौका दूंगी।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: We want a commitment from you. ... (*Interruptions*) You have to respond. The Central Government has to respond. ... (*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मैं ज़ीरो ऑवर में ऐसा नहीं कर सकती।

...(व्यवधान)