

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,  
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 533**  
ANSWERED ON 13.12.2018

**INTER-STATE RIVER WATER SHARING DISPUTES**

533.           ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that the Government is considering to bring a law to resolve inter-State river water sharing disputes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to set up 13 River Basin Authorities and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is also considering to bring in a River Basin Management Bill, 2018 which will replace the River Board Act, 1956; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) The mechanism for adjudication of disputes relating to Inter-State river water and river valley thereof is available in the form of Inter State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956. When any request under the said Act is received from any State Government in respect of any water dispute on the Inter- State rivers and the Central Government is of the opinion that the water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, the Central Government constitutes a Water Disputes Tribunal for the adjudication of the water dispute.

In order to further streamline the adjudication of Inter-State river water disputes, the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) on 14.03.2017 by amending the existing ISRWD Act, 1956. The Bill envisages to constitute a standalone Tribunal with permanent establishment and permanent office space and infrastructure so as to obviate with the need to set up a separate Tribunal for each water dispute which is invariably a time- consuming process. The Bill was referred to Parliamentary Standing

Committee on Water Resources for examination. The Standing Committee has submitted its recommendation on the Bill vide Lok Sabha Secretariat letter dated 11.08.2017 in the form of 'Nineteenth Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources on The Inter- State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017'. On the basis of these recommendations, draft Cabinet Note on Officials Amendments to be made in the Bill have been drafted by the Ministry in consultation with Ministry of Law and Justice.

(c) to (e) Draft River Basin Management Bill, 2018 to amend the existing River Boards Act, 1956 providing for the establishment of River Basin Authority for the regulation and development of Inter-State Rivers and River Basins has been prepared by the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR. The draft Bill has been circulated to all the States/UTs for consultations and it has been also been placed on the website of MoWR, RD & GR for public consultation. The names of the thirteen (13) Inter-State river basins given in schedule-I of the proposed bill, for which River Basin Authorities are to be constituted, are given in **Annexure**.

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## ANNEXURE

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (c) to (e) of Unstarred Question No. 533 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 13.12.2018 regarding “Inter-State River Water Sharing Disputes”.**

### **SCHEDULE I**

#### **INTER-STATE RIVER BASIN UNDER THE ACT**

The Inter-State river basins for which River Basin Authorities are to be constituted under this Act include:-

- I. Brahmaputra, Barak and other inter-State rivers of North East.
- II. Brahmani- Baitarini basin
- III. Cauvery basin,
- IV. Ganga basin
- V. Godavari basin,
- VI. Indus basin,
- VII. Krishna basin
- VIII. Mahanadi basin,
- IX. Mahi basin
- X. Narmada basin,
- XI. Pennar basin
- XII. Subarnrekha basin
- XIII. Tapi basin