

Inter State Water Dispute

Interstate River Water Disputes Act, 1956

Whenever the riparian states are not able to reach amicable agreements on their own in sharing of an interstate river waters, section 4 of IRWD Act provides dispute resolution process in the form of Tribunal.

tribunal shall not only adjudicate but also investigate the matters referred to it by the central government

When the tribunal final verdict issued based on the deliberations on the draft verdict is accepted by the central government and notified in the official gazette, the verdict becomes law and binding on the states

The 2002 amendment bars the tribunals to give any time period/validity for constituting a new tribunal

Tribunals set up so far

8 Tribunals have been set up so far to settle water disputes among the States

Godavari, Krishna, Narmada, Ravi & Beas
Cauvery, Krishna II, Vansadhara & Mahadayi

Constitutional Provisions

River waters use / harnessing is included in states jurisdiction

union government can make laws on regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys when expedient in the public interest

When public interest is served, President may also establish an interstate council as per Article 263 to inquire and recommend on the dispute

Inter-State River Water Disputes Bill, 2017

Bill proposes a Single Standing Tribunal instead of existing multiple tribunals

While the term of office of the Chairperson is 5 year or till he attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier

Bill also provides for the appointment of Assessors to provide technical support to the tribunal

The total time period for adjudication of dispute has been fixed at maximum of four and half years

Dispute Resolution Committee to be established by Central Government consisting of relevant experts, before such dispute is referred to the tribunal

Transparent data collection system at the national level for each river basin and for this purpose, an agency to maintain data-bank and information system shall be appointed