

## **Need to resolve the Mahanadi river dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh-laid**

**SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT):** Mahanadi River is a crucial lifeline for the states of Odisha and Chhattisgarh, supporting agriculture, industry, and providing drinking water to millions. Since Chhattisgarh became a separate state in 2000, it has constructed several dams and barrages upstream. These developments have significantly reduced the downstream water flow, adversely affecting irrigation, decreasing water levels in the Hirakud Dam, and causing ecological damage to the delta region. These developments has not only strained the relations between the two states but also impacted the livelihoods of farmers and the overall socio- economic development in Odisha. The Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal was established in 2018, yet a resolution remains pending. The prolonged delay is exacerbating the issues faced by the people dependent on the river.

I would request the Government to kindly intervene and facilitate an immediate dialogue between Odisha and Chhattisgarh to find an amicable solution. Additionally, there is a need to expedite the proceedings of the Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal and ensure its verdict is implemented promptly.