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Title: Need to accord approval for two Irrigation Projects in Odisha.

SHRI BALBHADRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR): It is surprising that in spite of constituting Mahanadi River Tribunal in March 2018, Government of Chhattisgarh has not stopped constructing barrages and diversion weirs in the Mahanadi basin. They have even started constructing new structures.

One such example is a *new* diversion weir across river Tel in Mahanadi basin near Amad in Gariabandh District of Chhattisgarh which will submerge about 3 villages in Odisha.

While Chhattisgarh Government has not stopped ongoing projects in Mahanadi basin and started new projects, the Centre is not approving one Irrigation project on the upstream on the same river, near Phataki of Nabarangpur District for Odisha. This project will have no bearing on Chhattisgarh.

Similarly, in Godawari basin, while the Government is delaying approving Middle Kolab Irrigation Project for Odisha in Koratput District, new deep bore wells have been dug recently on Indrawati River hardly 2 km below the border between Chhattisgarh-Odisha. This is depleting the ground water level in Odisha.

It is therefore requested to accord approval to both the projects and advise the Chhattisgarh Government to stop all projects (ongoing and

planned) till Tribunal's order, and also Polavaram Project for the time-being.