

**CALLING ATTENTION TABLED BY S/SHRI DIGAMBAR KAMAT,
(LEADER OF OPPOSITION), RAVI NAIK, PRATAP SINGH RANE,
LUIZINHO FALEIRO, AND ALEIXO REGINALDO LOURENCO, MLAs**

“ Fear, anxiety, apprehension and genuine concerns about Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in view of intended dissolution of Mahadei Water Dispute Tribunal and difficulty which Goa would face before the proposed single National Tribunal and lack of State Government response on the Bill and failure to take people into confidence to guarantee Water Security. ”

**REPLY BY SHRI FILIPE NERY RODRIGUES, HON. MINISTER FOR WATER
RESOURCES**

“ Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal was notified 16.11.2010 and disputes were referred to the Tribunal by Government of India on 11.01.2011. The Tribunal started functioning since September, 2012 and after submission of various Statements of Claims, Replies and rejoinders, 70 issues were framed by the Tribunal. After conducting 112 hearings including examination of 11 witnesses and examination of various documents, the Tribunal gave its award and final decision on 14.08.2018.

References were filed before the Tribunal by all the three States viz. Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The State of Goa filed reference under 5(3) of the act on 20.09.2018 and the disobedience petition on 20.08.2018.

The new Inter-State River Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2019 has been recently passed by the Lok Sabha. The Bill is yet to be passed by Rajya Sabha and also assent by President. The envisaged Amendment cites that Single National Tribunal will adjudicate ongoing disputes and new disputes in the Country. Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal has already given its award and what is before it are the references by all the three states.

As per legal opinion the draft Inter-state river water disputes (amendment) bill would have the following affects primea facie on notification:

- 1. The Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal would cease to exist.*

- 2. The award would stand as per the General Clauses Act provides to protection of rights and liabilities under the existing act.***
- 3. The references filed by party states under section 5(3) of the old Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 will stand transferred to a bench of the Tribunal constituted under the new act.***
- 4. The disobedience petition filed by Goa against Karnataka will also be transferred the bench of the Tribunal constituted under the new act.***
- 5. The new act also specifies that any dispute that has been already adjudicated and settles by existing Tribunal shall not be re-opened.***

It is the endeavour of the Government to protect the interest of the State of Goa whether in Mhadei/ Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal or the National Tribunal.”