

**BEFORE MAHANADI WATER DISPUTES TRIBUNAL
NEW DELHI**

REFERENCE NO. 1/2018

State of Odisha

Claimant

and

State of Chhattisgarh & Ors.

Respondents

With

REFERENCE NO. 2/2019

State of Chhattisgarh

Claimant

and

State of Odisha & Ors.

Respondents

23.07.2026:

**This matter was called on before the Tribunal
today at 2.00 P.M.**

CORAM:

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE BELA M. TRIVEDI

CHAIRMAN

**HON'BLE DR. JUSTICE RAVI RANJAN
(Through Video Conference)**

MEMBER

HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE INDERMEET KAUR KOCHHAR **MEMBER**

FOR THE STATE OF ODISHA:

Mr. Pitambar Acharya, Advocate General, Odisha
Ms. Anindita Pujari, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ranvir Singh, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Manu Krishnan, Adv.
Mr. Pawan Bhushan, Adv.
Ms. Kamakshi Sehgal, Adv.
Ms. Subha Sarma, Principal Secretary to Govt. WRD

FOR THE STATE OF CHHATTISGARH:

Mr. A.K. Ganguli, Senior Advocate
Mr. Vivek Sharma, Advocate General
Mr. K.K. Lahiri, Advocate
Mr. Jagjit Singh Chhabra, Adv.
Mr. Biswajeet Dubey, AAG
Mr. Rajesh Sukumar Toppo, Secretary WRD



FOR THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA:

Mr. Deepak Nargolkar, Senior Advocate
Mr. Viraj Kadam, Adv.

FOR THE STATE OF MADHYA PRADESH:

None

FOR THE STATE OF JHARKHAND:

None

ORDER

Apropos the Order dated 11.07.2026 passed by the Tribunal and apropos the letter dated 25.07.2025 addressed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State of Odisha to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of State of Chhattisgarh, some positive developments have taken place at the end of both the States for the amicable solution to the contentious Issues pertaining to Mahanadi Waters, pending before this Tribunal.

2. The learned Advocate General, Mr. Pitambar Acharya for the State of Odisha, in furtherance of the Order dated 11.07.2026, has placed on record the affidavit of Mr. Dillip Kumar Rout, Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources Department, Odisha, and submitted that significant developments had taken place during the course of Proceedings before the Tribunal between the two States, and that now the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh has also written a letter dated 22.07.2026 in response to the letter dated 25.07.2025 of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, suggesting the involvement of Central Water Commission (CWC) and Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) as a neutral third party to resolve the pressing Issues through Mediation. Similarly, the learned



Advocate General, Mr. Vivek Sharma for the State of Chhattisgarh has also placed on record a Short Note stating the developments which had taken place subsequent to the Order passed by the Tribunal on 11.07.2026. The affidavit filed on behalf of the State of Odisha and the Short Note submitted on behalf of the State of Chhattisgarh are taken on record.

3. It appears that pursuant to the letter dated 22.07.2026 of Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, the Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Water Resources Department, Mr. Rajesh Kumar Toppo has also written a letter on 22.07.2026 to the Secretary, Government of India, MoJS, requesting to nominate appropriate senior officers and technical experts from MoJS and CWC and to convene an early meeting with the representatives of both the States to finalise the composition and terms of reference, and time bound work programme of the expanded Committee. Similarly the Principal Secretary, Water Resources Department, Government of Odisha, Ms. Subha Sarma has also prepared a letter to the Secretary, MoJS, on similar lines as written by the Secretary to the Government of Chhattisgarh.

4. As stated in our earlier Orders, some of the Issues have already been settled by both the Party States, and now both the States have agreed to resolve the remaining Issues through the participation and intervention of MoJS and CWC to bring greater technical depth, objectivity and institutional support to the process. Since the Ministry has already been requested by both the States to nominate appropriate senior officers and technical experts from MoJS and CWC, it is hoped and expected that MoJS shall convene a meeting



with the representatives of both the States at the earliest to finalise the composition and terms of reference and time-bound work programme of the expanded Committee. It is also expected that CWC shall expedite the whole process considering the limited tenure of the Tribunal.

5. In the aforesaid premises, the learned Secretaries of both the States are requested to report to the Tribunal about the further developments with regard to the constitution of the Committee and Proceedings before the CWC on the next date of hearing.

6. List the mater on 21.08.2026 at 2.00 P.M.

7. The Registrar, MWDT is directed to send a copy of this order to the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, RD&GR, and also to the Chairman, Central Water Commission.

Certified to be True Copy

[Signature]
Registrar

sd -
..... J.
(BELA M. TRIVEDI)
CHAIRMAN

sd -
..... J.
(DR. RAVI RANJAN)
MEMBER

sd -
..... J.
(INDERMEET KAUR KOCHHAR)
MEMBER

