

1. WHAT ARE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS FOR INTERSTATE WATER DISPUTES?

Interstate water disputes are different from other interstate conflicts. The Constitution of India, under Article 262, bars the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court or any other court over interstate water disputes. It empowers the Parliament to provide for the adjudication of any dispute with respect to use, distribution and control of waters of any interstate river and river valley. The Interstate (River) Water Disputes Act provides for the resolution of such disputes. Under its provisions, the disputes are to be adjudicated by ad-hoc, temporary and exclusive tribunals. The decision of the tribunal would be final and binding on the parties to the disputes.

So far 9 Interstate River Water Dispute Tribunals have been constituted, the latest being the Mahanadi Water Dispute Tribunal with Mr. Justice A. M. Khanwilkar as its chairman in March, 2018.



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