

Calling attention Motion by Aleixo Reginaldo Lourenco, MLA Curtorim Constituency & Rajesh Patnekar MLA Bicholim Constituency.

" Fear and anxiety in the minds of the people of Goa on the diversion of Mhadei river water by the Karnataka Government which has impacted the flow of water in the Mandovi river. The flow of water into many water bodies including Barazan and Ladkem have already affected. Even though the matter is pending before the Hon. Supreme Court. The action the Government of Goa proposes to take the diversion issue of Mhadei river by Karnataka Government."

Reply by Shri Vinod Palyekar, Hon. Minister for Water Resources

"Mahadayi/Mhadei/Mandovi river is the lifeline of Goa. 78% of the basin of river Mahadayi lies in Goa and 42.70% of the area of the state constitutes the basin of the river Mahadayi. Karnataka over last 38 years or so has been making efforts to divert the waters of the river on one pretext or the other. Government of Goa has opposed all the proposals of Karnataka at every level and forum.

Ministry of water Resources Government of India on 30.04.2002, had given an in-principle clearance to divert 7.56 TMC of water from Kalasa- Bandur project to Hubli-Dharwad for drinking purpose. This was kept in abeyance by Government of India when an all party delegation led by Chief Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar had met Hon. Prime Minister in September, 2002 and apprised him of the issue. Government of Goa then on 09.07.2002 approached the Ministry of Water Resources for constituting a tribunal for adjudicating the disputes between Goa and Karnataka. On 02.10.2006, Karnataka unilaterally started the work on Kalsa-Bandur nallah project and Goa was left with no option than to file suit in Supreme Court. On directives of the Supreme Court, Government of India notified the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal in 2010-11 and referred the disputes to the same. The Tribunal started functioning in 2012.

Goa filed an Interlocutory Application before the Tribunal to stop the ongoing diversion works being carried out by Karnataka. The Tribunal on 16.10.2012 and 17.04.2014 ordered Karnataka not to divert any waters from Kalsa Bandura to Malprabha till the award was declared. Further Goa brought to the notice of the Tribunal that water from part of the catchment of Kalsa nallah gets automatically diverted through the conduits constructed by Karnataka. Tribunal then ordered that the two conduits be blocked at chainages 990mts and 1530 mts respectively and also constituted a team of Superintending Engineers of all the three States to oversee the construction. The blockades were constructed and reported to the Tribunal by the team on 05.06.2014 .

The blockades were functioning very effectively as inspected by teams from Goa for last four monsoons. On reporting by dailies, two teams of Water Resources Department of Goa visited the site of the Kalsa diversion. From the visit it is seen that waters from the part of the catchment of the nallah gets diverted through the conduit. The rear end of the conduit was checked and it was observed that water was flowing through two of the three conduits, showing that waters from the part of Kalasa basin is being diverted to Malaprabha basin.

The issue is being taken very seriously and application will be made before the Tribunal immediately. Other legal and remedial recourses will be resorted to on legal advise. “