1. What is interstate river water dispute, explain the constitutional provision related to it. Also discuss the reason behind the issue, whether it can be fixed? (250 words).

GS – II | Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International Relations

Topic- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation

Structure of Answer:

- Introduction (say the recent bill controversies)
- How Inter-State River Water Disputes are one of the most contiguous issues in the Indian federalism today.
- List the Constitutional provisions for River Water Dispute in India.
- Explain the reasons for the lingering water disputes over long durations of time (add examples like Cauvery Water Dispute etc).
- Way forward (significance of Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, Disputes Resolution Committee (DRC) etc.).
- Conclusion.

Key points:

- Entry 17 of State List deals with water i.e. water supply, irrigation, canal, drainage, embankments, water storage and water power.
- Entry 56 of Union List gives power to the Union Government for the regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys to the extent declared by Parliament to be expedient in the public interest.

In the case of disputes relating to waters, Article 262 provides:

- Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution or control of the waters of, or in, any inter-State river or river valley.
- Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, Parliament may, by law provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court shall exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.

Active River Water sharing Tribunals in India

+ Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal II (2004) – Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra
+ Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal (2018) – Odisha& Chhattisgarh
+ Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (2010)- Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra
+ Ravi& Beas Water Tribunal (1986)- Punjab, Harayana, Rajasthan
+ Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal (2010)- Andhra Pradesh & Odisha.