

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 503

ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

NORTH KOEL RESERVOIR PROJECT

†503. SHRI ABHAY KUMAR SINHA

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for the inordinate delay in the completion of the North Koel Reservoir Project;
- (b) the total funds allocated and utilised for the said ambitious projects so far;
- (c) whether any committee has been constituted to monitor the implementation of the said project and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the funds by which the said project is likely to be completed; and
- (e) the current status of the area from 0 to 31 kms which falls in Jharkhand under the said project?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Construction of the project started in the year 1972 by Govt. of Bihar from its own resources. The work was stopped in 1993 by the Forest Department, Govt. of Bihar due to strict enforcement of new Forest Conservation Act (1980). In the year 2016, Govt. of India decided to provide assistance for completion of balance works of the Project in order to operationalise it to realise the envisaged benefits. In August, 2017 the Union Cabinet approved the proposal for balance works of North Koel Reservoir Project. However, the progress of works at the project has been affected due to several reasons like time taken in requisite clearance from Forest Department of Government of Jharkhand, agitation by the local villagers at the dam site and time taken by the Government of Bihar for concurrence of works to be carried out in Bihar portion. Subsequently, a Revised Cost Estimate incorporating miscellaneous components as requested by State Governments was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 04.10.2023. A period of 30 months from the date of approval of revised cost by CCEA has been provided for completion of balance works.

(b) The Revised cost of balance works of the North Koel Reservoir Project is ₹2,430.76 crore which consists of central share: ₹1,836.41 crore, Bihar's share is ₹547.04 crore and Jharkhand's share is ₹47.31 crore. An amount of ₹742.54 Cr. (Central Share: ₹721.22 Cr., Bihar Share: ₹1.23 Cr. and Jharkhand share ₹20.09 Cr.) has been released for the balance works of the project till date.

(c) An Empowered Committee chaired by Secretary, DoWR, RD & GR and Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) chaired by Member (WP&P), CWC having members from both State Governments (Bihar and Jharkhand), Central Water Commission (CWC), Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) and WAPCOS have been constituted for monitoring progress of implementation of the balance works of the project.

(d) The Revised cost of balance works of the North Koel Reservoir Project is ₹2,430.76 crore.

(e) 22% works of area from 0 to 31 kms which falls in Jharkhand has been completed.
