

India continues to oppose the re-entry of Fiji into the Commonwealth.

Discrimination against Fijians of Indian origin is repeatedly raised with concerned countries at the bilateral level.

The Government also maintains active contact with the leadership of the ousted Fiji Labour Party—National Federation Party Coalition which also includes the elected representatives of Fijians of Indian origin.

Polavaram Multi-purpose Project

601. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal relating to the Polavaram Multi-purpose Project is pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Two project reports for the Polavaram Dam and left bank canal on the river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh and the Right bank canal were received separately in April, 1983 and March, 1984 respectively. After taking an overall view in December, 1987 on both the proposals together, it was seen that there are basic deficiencies about reliable water availability, conjunctive use of ground water, sedimentation studies, soil surveys, concurrence of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh Governments for submerging their areas and clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The project was therefore, considered unacceptable for further processing and was returned to the State Government. The State Government, was required to submit a combined modified project report for appraisal at the Centre. In July, 1990 only updated cost estimate was submitted by the State Government. In August, 1990 need for complete modification of the report was again reiterated by the Commission.

Modernisation of Krishna Irrigation Canal System

602. SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has forwarded a scheme for modernisation of the Krishna Irrigation Canal System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard so far;

(c) whether the scheme has been posed for external assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) A scheme for modernisation of Krishna Delta Irrigation System estimated to cost Rs. 99.67 crores was originally received in the Central Water Commission in September, 1979. In compliance of the observations of the appraising agencies, the State Government resubmitted modified and updated report estimated to cost Rs. 425 crores in December, 1985. The project envisages re-modelling and lining of irrigation canals, replacement of old structures, construction of new structures, re-modelling of drainage system in the command, conjunctive use of ground water, improvement of communication facilities and changes in cropping pattern and operation for better management. Even this project report was found wanting in respect of utilisation of water in excess of allocation by the Tribunal, inclusion of cost of utilisation of ground and recycled water in project estimates, soil survey of command water logging and salinity. Therefore, the project has been returned to the State Government in December, 1988 to comply with the observations, modify and resubmit updated project report.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.