

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4058
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has accorded all clearances for construction of Pollavarum Mega Irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh within a shortest period of time without going into the details of the damages it will cause to the forests and environment in the region;
- (b) If so, the height of the proposed dam cleared and area to be submerged fully and partially and people to be affected thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to operationalise the Compensatory Afforestation Management Planning in the area to maintain eco-system and ensure tribal rights thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH).

- (a). After following due process under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the Polavaram Multipurpose project, Andhra Pradesh was accorded the environmental clearance on 25.10.2005 and the diversion of forest land for this project was approved on 28.7.2010.
- (b) The height of the dam 48 m and total area to be submerged is 38694.07 ha , affecting a population of 1,77,275 in Andhra Pradesh; 11,766 in Chattisgarh and 6,316 in Orissa.
- (c) For the diversion of forest land Government of Andhra Pradesh is required to raise Compensatory Afforestation over the equivalent non forest land handed over to the State Forest Department at the cost of the user agency. For settlement of the rights in terms of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 no claims have been received under RoFR Act, 2006, in the diversion / submergence area of Polavaram project.