

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2483

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010

IMPACT OF DAM

Abdulrahman Shri ;Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is constructing the Polavaram Dam in violation of Environmental and Forest Clearance such as without taking mandatory public hearing etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the impact of dam on mangrove forest of Godavari river and Coringa Bird Sanctuary;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to protect the mangrove forest and bird sanctuary;
- (e) whether some other State Governments such as Orissa and Chattisgarh have also voiced against construction of dam; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

**Answer**

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

(a)& (b) Environmental Clearance to the Polavaram Multipurpose project was accorded on 25.10.2005, after following all the procedures in accordance with Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994. The Ministry has also issued the approval for diversion of forest land on 28.7.2010, subject to certain stipulations.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has thereafter proposed the construction of embankments on river Sileru and Saberi in Chattisgarh and Orissa to avoid submergence in these States, which were not considered during grant of Environmental Clearance in 2005. This issue was considered by Expert Appraisal Committee in its meeting held in February, 2009. While the Expert Appraisal Committee noted the Technical feasibility in respect of construction of bunds/embankments on Sileru and Saberi rivers, they also recommended requirement of public hearing under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 in Orissa and Chattisgarh. Public hearing has not been conducted in the States of Orissa and Chattisgarh as on date.

(c) &(d) As per the then Guidelines for grant of environmental clearance, the impact assessment study was to be done covering seven kilometers from the periphery of the project area. As mangrove forest and Coringa Sanctuary are beyond seven kilometers, these were not included in the environment impact study

(e) & (f) The Governments of Orissa and Chattisgarh have objected to the construction of the Polavaram project as some areas in both the States are coming under submergence and no public hearing were undertaken in these States. While the matter is before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the state governments could mutually settle it through negotiations.