

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1767
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011
REHABILITATION ISSUES OF POLAVARAM DAM PROJECT
Das Shri Bhakta Charan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has approved the evacuation of lakhs of people from villages which are affected by the implementation of the Polavaram Project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the measures taken to compensate and rehabilitate the tribals and the small & marginal farmers; and
- (c) if not, the alternative plans proposed by the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a), (b) & (c) The Investment clearance to original cost of Indira Sagar (Polavaram) Project was accorded by the Planning Commission on 25.02.2009 for Rs. 10151.04 Crore (PL-2005-06) subject to certain conditions, which inter-alia include that :

- i. The project authorities shall comply with the conditions stipulated in the Ministry of Environment and Forest letter No J-12011/74/2005-IA.I. dated 25.10.05 and J-12011/40/2002-IA.I. dated 25.04.06 regarding environmental clearance.
- ii. The project authorities shall comply with the conditions stipulated in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs letter no 20011/15/2005-CP&R(NGO) Dated 17th April 2007 and letter no 20011/15/2005-CP&R(NGO) Dated 24th May 2007 regarding R&R clearance for Project Affected Scheduled Tribe families.
- iii. The project authorities shall comply with the conditions stipulated in the 95th meeting minutes of the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources.

As per the Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forest , Government of India, a total of 1,93,357 persons are likely to be affected due to construction of Polavaram Project, out of that 1,75,275 persons from Andhra Pradesh, 6,316 persons from Orissa and 11,766 from Chhattisgarh would be affected. As per the clearance of Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R & R) Plan for Scheduled Tribe Project Affected Families (ST PAFs) from Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Polavaram Project would displace about 73,000 Scheduled Tribe persons in 299 villages in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Chhattisgarh with the maximum number being in Andhra Pradesh (60,770 ST persons in 276 villages). MoTA has granted clearance to the R & R Plan for ST PAFs for the project subject to fulfillment of following conditions:

- (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh shall ensure that no submergence and displacement of people including Scheduled Tribes (STs) takes place in the territories of States of Orissa and Chhattisgarh.
- (b) For the resettlement and rehabilitation of ST PAFs in respect of Andhra Pradesh, the Government of Andhra Pradesh shall follow their R & R Plan, in accordance with the provisions of National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation, 2003.
- (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh shall provide land to STs in lieu of the land acquired for the construction of project from them in the command of the project, and preferably within the Scheduled Area if the command area and Scheduled Area are co-terminus.
- (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh shall ensure that the R & R Plan is implemented and completed within a specified time schedule before the submergence in any area starts taking place.
- (e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh shall ensure a better livelihood with dignity for the STs in the new set up and surroundings.
- (f) All the rights and privileges enjoyed by STs in their original habitat shall be protected by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the new set up.

There will be no submergence and displacement of people including Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the State of Orissa and Chhattisgarh after construction of protective embankment. Out of 276 villages to be displaced in Andhra Pradesh, 5 villages were shifted and balance 271 villages are to be shifted. During the year 2011-12, it is proposed by State Goerment to rehabilitate 105 villages.

The State Government has informed that there is adequate provision towards compensation and rehabilitation as per State Government R & R Policy.