

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7344
ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO PROJECT
Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

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

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been directed not to start construction work on the river Godavari on the ground that till the requisite Public Hearings in the State of Chhattisgarh and Odisha are held stipulated in the amended environment clearance dated 9 March, 2009 to the multipurpose Polavaram project on Inter-State river;
- (b) if so, whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has not heeded to the advices made by the Central Government in this regard and construction of the project is going on as earlier done; and
- (c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to(c) The Ministry on 8.2.2011 has directed the State Government of Andhra Pradesh not to start construction work on ground till the matter of conducting public hearings in the State of Chattisgarh and Odisha is resolved.

As per the Government of Odisha, the public hearing in the State of Odisha cannot be conducted due to an ongoing court case in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The Government of Chattisgarh has asked for a joint inspection and survey of the area of submergence before holding the public hearing. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry to review the change in the scope of the project.

The stop work order of the Ministry dated 8.2.2011 continues for the project.