

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2657
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
CLEARANCE TO HYDEL PROJECT
Kashyap Shri Dinesh

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

- (a) whether the Government granted environmental clearance to the Pollavaram Multi-purpose hydel project on the river Godavari in Andhra Pradesh at the border of Chhattisgarh and Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the date on which the public hearing was held for giving environmental clearance along with the location;
- (c) whether the residents of the areas of Sukma in Chhattisgarh and Malkangiri in Odisha were invited for the hearing;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the clearance was given without the concurrence of Gram Sabha; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

- (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. Public Hearing was conducted in 5 Districts of Andhra Pradesh namely Krishna, West Godavari, East Godavari, Khammam and Visakhapatnam on 10.10.2005.
- (c) to (e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has thereafter proposed the construction of embankments on river Sileru and Saberi in Chattisgarh and Orissa respectively 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. Accordingly, Government of Andhra Pradesh has been asked to conduct public hearing in the States of Orissa and Chattisgarh. This is yet to be completed.