

Fourteenth Loksabha

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Participants : Soz Prof Saifuddin, Sethi Shri Arjun Charan, Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore, Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva, Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari, Ramadass Prof. M., Soz Prof Saifuddin

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Title : Shri Arjun Charan Sethi called the attention of the Minister of Water Resources to the situation arising out of reported violation of different awards given by Water Dispute Tribunals.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I call upon the hon. Member, I would like to say that this is a very sensitive matter; so, let us debate it in such a manner that there is no uncertainty or misunderstanding.

Shri Arjun Sethi.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (BHADRAK): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Water Resources to the following matter of urgent public important and request that he may make a statement thereon:

“Reported violation of different awards given by Water Dispute Tribunals.”

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): Inter-State Agreement dated 2nd April, 1980 among the basin States namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (now Chhattisgarh) and Orissa provides for construction of Polavaram Project with FRL/MWL 150 feet by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Agreement *inter alia* provides for either constructing and maintaining protective embankment in Orissa and Chhattisgarh or paying compensation for land and property likely to be affected above FRL 150 feet due to all effects including backwater effect at the cost of Polavaram Project.

* Placed in Library see No. LT. 4556/2006

The project is under appraisal by the Central Water Commission and investment clearance from the Planning Commission has not been granted to the Project as yet. The clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest on environment angles has been granted. However, clearance from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is yet to be obtained by the Project authorities.

The Ministry of Water Resources and CWC have held a meeting with the State Governments on the issue of submergence of the Orissa and Chhattisgarh territories likely to get submerged by the Polavaram reservoir. The Minister of Water Resources has convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of party-States on 26th September 2006 in New Delhi to discuss and resolve this issue finally[V12].

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving us this opportunity to discuss this particular issue in this august House. At the outset, I must say that I am not against any particular State implementing a project for the betterment of its people.

MR. SPEAKER: That should be the spirit.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: My actual problem or concern arises only when the implementation of a project by a State affects the interests of other States. As I have stated, I would like to be very brief in my intervention.

As far as Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal is concerned, the hon. Minister has already stated that it has recommended for FRL/MWL 150 ft project. The hon. Minister has not said anything and has stuck to the award given by the Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal. It is now reported that the concerned States had held inte-state meeting in the year 1997. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has intimated that the water level may go up to FRL/MWL 182 feet due to back water effect, by adopting design of 36 lakh cusec, and as a result seven villages and 1026 hectares of territory in Orissa are likely to be affected.

We have no problem if they adhere to 150 ft. FRL/MWL because that has been agreed to by the concerned State. It is now reported that they have intimated in a meeting that they are going to have FRL/MWL 182 feet, as a result a number of villages, especially in Malkana district of Orissa, are going to be affected. As you know, Sir, especially in those areas a large number of *adivasis* live and their homes will be submerged due to this.

The State Government of Orissa has a number of times written to them and they should not go up to 182 feet FRL/MWL. A number of times, meetings have been held under the aegis of Central Water Commission also. So far as I remember, three times, that is in the year 1997, 2000 and 2001, the CWC held meetings to resolve the issue. In every meeting both the CWC and the State Government of Orissa have requested the concerned State of Andhra Pradesh to give details of back water effect. Both the CWC as well as the Government of Orissa wanted to have a detailed study report as well as back water profile up to FRL/MWL 182 feet for examination[R13].

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not given the details. As a result of this, the particular issue is still pending before the CWC. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is having this particular project at the FR level 150 feet or they have increased it to 182 feet.

Secondly, I have asked a number of questions in this particular Session itself regarding the details of this project. Today also in his statement he has not given any details as to whether the particular State Government is going for 182 feet FR level. I would like to have the details. Similarly, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any information now in this regard. In response to an unstarred question on this subject, he avoided giving the answer. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not reported the status of construction of Indira Sagar or Polavaram Project. This is the answer given by the hon. Minister to the House.

Another thing which I would like to bring before the House is that the hon. Minister has stated in his statement that the environment clearance has already been given. You will be surprised to know the time taken to give the environment clearance. The report was submitted to the Ministry on Environment and Forest on 10.10.2005 and the clearance was given on 25.10.2005. Within 15 days, the environment clearance was given. I am surprised how the environment impact of having this particular project can be studied in 15 days only, whereas a number of such other projects are lying for months and years together. For those projects, they have not been given the environment clearance.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, I would take only two minutes more. The Central Empowered Committee was constituted by the Supreme Court as a PIL has already been filed against this project. Recently, this Committee under the guidance of Shri Vijaykrishnan visited the Polavaram Project.. The *Adivasi Samsekhm* Parishad took out a huge rally opposing the project. The State Convenor of the Parishad presented a memorandum and emphasised the need for obtaining the acceptance of the tribal groups living in the scheduled areas likely to be displaced by holding gram sabhas.

Sir, I would just like to bring to your kind notice that CPI(M) leaders staged a protest in front of the hotel where the Committee members stayed overnight opposing the project. They were annoyed as the Congress leaders were allowed one-by-one to meet the panel while the other delegation was kept waiting for a long time. This is the problem.

I would like to know whether this particular project is for 182 feet FR level. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any information on this. If he does not have any information, whether he will send a delegation to that particular area so that it can study the problem that lies there[\[r14\]](#).

As I have stated earlier, I am not against any State implementing a project for their benefit. But I am very much concerned about the consequences that the Orissa State would have to face owing to implementation of such a project. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any information regarding this or not. Why is the concerned State Government not giving the Detailed Project Report to the affected States and also to the CWC for clearance?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, another straight question from Shri Mahatab!

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, it has been said that water has a vital role in the growth and decay of civilisations. It is the commonest substance on earth. But only one per cent of it is available for human consumption.

Sir, the river Godavari is an inter State river flowing through the States of Orissa, Chattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. The catchment area of this river also involves the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka. In the year 1969, as has been said, the first Tribunal was formed and it gave its report on 2nd April, 1980. The basic award of that Tribunal was that the design aspect of the Pollavaram project has been left entirely to the Central Water Commission. A 52 kilometres up stream from Rajahmundry this was to come up. As has been mentioned by my predecessor, our concern is that once this project comes up, the tributaries, namely, Sabari and Sileri rivers, which traverse through the Malkangiri district of Orissa will inundate a number of villages and habitations, large tracts of forest land and other areas which are rich in minerals. These are the three aspects which are to be looked into.

Sir, my question, therefore, is that the submergence will stretch along the Sabari and Sileri rivers in the Motu *tehsil* in Malkangiri district of Orissa and it will submerge more than 10 villages and thousands of tribal families will be displaced. According to the agreement of 1980, 150 ft. or FRL/MWL of 45.72 meters, that was the figure mentioned in that Award, should be maintained and the other design aspect and everything has to be cleared by the Central Water Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: I thought you were coming to your question.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, in December last year I had raised this issue during Special Mentions to which the hon. Minister had replied very recently, on 21 July. He had mentioned categorically, this was a news not only for me but also for the State Government of Orissa, that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has already prepared a Detailed Project Report for taking up the Pollavaram Multipurpose Project and the DPR is under techno-economic appraisal with the Central Water Commission. Now, when the DPR is awaiting the techno-economic approval of the Central Water Commission, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is duty bound, the Centre should also enforce it, to give a copy of the Detailed Project Report to the State Government of Orissa which has not been given. Our contention is that in three meetings, three different information has been provided[[snb15](#)].

[[brn16](#)]If you want to have 150 feet, then you come out with that report. If you want 182 feet, then that is your problem. We may or may not agree with it. You come up with your report. But for environmental clearance and for other purposes, you are giving three different reports in three different places. That is our objection. Come out with one report. I would ask the Minister to enforce one report for environment clearance. You are saying it as 182 feet and, for CWC, you say 180 feet and before the Orissa Government, you say it as 150 feet. How can this be done? The Orissa Government has been insisting that according to the 1980 Award, a joint field survey of the affected area has to be done. It was also said that the estimated cost would be Rs. 9265 crore. Very recently, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has said that the cost will be Rs. 20,000 crore. I do not know whether the Central Government is aware of what the Andhra Government has said about the cost.

MR. SPEAKER: It should be sorted out among the States. That is the spirit with which we should conduct ourselves. All the concerned States should sort out the problem.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : When you enhance the construction cost, the detailed project report also should be commensurate with that. Our concern is this. You give us the information. You may raise it to Rs. 40,000 crore. We are not worried about it.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more, Mr. Mahtab. I am sorry. This is not the object of Calling Attention. I have already given you nearly eight minutes. Otherwise, Calling Attention loses its significance.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : I have three more points to make. That area is mineral rich. It has iron ore. Singareni Coalfields stretches to that area and the area which will be inundated will be part of it.

MR. SPEAKER: You are such a cooperative and articulate Member. Why don't you put your questions?

SHRI B. MAHTAB : That survey has not been done. If that report is there before the Central Government, then the hon. Minister should be kind enough to express it. The EIA based study is an outdated study. It does not tally with the 2001 census.

My last point is that it covers the tribal areas also.

MR. SPEAKER: You are going to new points now. I have called three very eminent Members from Orissa to speak. As soon as my attention was drawn, I have allowed a Calling Attention Motion. What more can I do? If you do not use it properly, what can I do? I have not minimised the importance of the subject.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Sir, this area comes under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. Has an attempt been made to study it? None of the Central Government Departments can displace the tribals from that area unless the President intervenes in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

* Not Recorded.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): Sir, we are really thankful to you for having allowed this Calling Attention Motion.

As in the past, Orissa is always at the receiving end. The UPA Government has always been against the interests of Orissa. I can cite one example now. The Andhra Pradesh, in connivance with the Government of India, has violated the Award. This is our allegation and charge. They have violated the Award.

MR. SPEAKER: You are entitled only to seek clarifications.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : I am seeking only clarifications. I will not mention the points spoken by other hon. Members.

The Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal have given this Award in 1980. The direction of the Award is that they must take the clearance of the Central Water Commission. Have they taken the clearance for proceeding with this project? This is my first question. The design has to be finalised by the CWC keeping in view the Agreement. Has this been decided by the CWC [\[bru17\]](#)?

They have finalised the design; they have finalised as to what will be the water level. I want to know whether this thing has been finalised by the CWC. This question arises because of the forest and environment clearance. As per the environmental clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, on 25th October, 2005, 4606 hectares of land will be submerged. Out of which, 3279 hectares are forest land. According to it, 6312 tribals will be affected. As you know, Malkangiri is a very sensitive area. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been mentioned very elaborately by your colleague. Repetition does not help.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : It is affected by naxal problem. They are adding fuel to the fire. The State Government is facing the naxal problem there. ... *(Interruptions)* The Chief Minister of Orissa has made a request in this regard. The Union Government is not listening to us. The State of Andhra Pradesh is showing*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not use that word. That word will be deleted.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : It is all right. But they are proceeding with this project without taking clearance from the CWC and the Government of India. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is Calling Attention. I am allowing two more Members to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : The Central Empowered Committee has been constituted and the State Governments have a right to appear before it. The Chief Minister of Orissa has made a request to settle the matter. ... *(Interruptions)* We are not against the interests of the State of Andhra Pradesh. ... *(Interruptions)* The Central Empowered Committee has been constituted. I would like to know whether the Andhra Pradesh Government will proceed with this project after taking necessary permission from the Central Empowered Committee. I want that clarification from the hon. Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is the reason why I made a humble appeal to you. These are very sensitive matters. After all we all are Indians, belonging to this great country. There are problems in different areas. They should be sorted out in a manner which keeps our country's image also. The Government will reply. They have to take into account the views of different State Governments.

* Not Recorded.

You have raised it very forcefully. Let me allow one or two more Members. Three Members' names have been mentioned in the list. You know that two more Members are permitted. I am allowing it. Of course, I am not obliged to do that. If you go on talking to each other across the House, how can we perform? Now, we have got the views of the Members from the State of Orissa. The Minister will reply. He is bound to reply to your questions.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : They should stop the construction. They should also intervene....
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hold patience for that. I have already called Prof. M. Ramadass to speak.

Prof. Ramadass, you are from Pondicherry. Are you interested in this?

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS (PONDICHERRY): Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait for the reply of the Minister. What is all this going on?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): Sir, Prof. Ramadass is from Pondicherry. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, Pondicherry is sympathetic to the cause of Andhra Pradesh.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.S. RAO (ELURU): We would like to speak on behalf of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rao, you have never bothered to give a notice. You have woken up just now. You are so much concerned about your State!

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not interfere in the proceedings of the House. It has become a fashion. Prof. Ramadass, you are entitled to one clarification. Please do it. Otherwise, I will close this.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the violation of Cauvery Tribunal Award with respect to Karaikal region of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. It is one among the four States which come under the Cauvery Tribunal Award. As you know, in the last fifteen years, as a result of this violation of the Awards given by the Cauvery Tribunal Award, the tail end of the Karaikal region has not been able to get the awarded amount of six TMC of water. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have gone to Cauvery Tribunal now. I am sorry. Let us not enter into a debate.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, it is not a debate. I am just asking some clarifications. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak only on this.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, why are you not permitting?

MR. SPEAKER: It is because this is beyond the scope of this Calling Attention.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, it is not beyond the scope of this Calling Attention. It is about the violation of different awards given by Water Dispute Tribunals. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not enter into an argument with me. I will not allow this. Please put your question. What clarification do you want?

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, there has been a consistent violation of the Awards given by the Cauvery Tribunal[r18].

What action has been taken to implement the Cauvery Tribunal Award which stipulates 205 TMC water to Tamil Nadu and 6 TMC water to Karaikal? This Award was given in 1991 and it has been violated for the last 15 years. We have a Cauvery Authority which is toothless. The hon. Prime Minister and four Chief Ministers are there in the Authority. They have no legal powers to enforce the Award of the Tribunal. ... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, will the Government constitute or convert the Cauvery River Authority on the lines of Bhakra Nangal River Valley Authority with legal powers and technical persons to monitor the implementation of the Awards? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Please conclude, otherwise nothing will be recorded. I am calling Shri K.S. Rao.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, with every Call Attention Notice, I have to pin the word Rule 197.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All Members are misusing the opportunity.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, please allow me some more time. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am not bound to allow; I was not bound to allow, but because it is an important matter, I have said two hon. Members may be accommodated. But you are going much beyond the discussion.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have put your question. You are entitled to put only one question. Now, Shri K.S. Rao. Please put only one clarificatory question.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, I want to associate with him. ... (*Interruptions*)

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. Do not try to dictate to the Chair. This bad habit should be given up.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, I am requesting you to kindly permit me to raise only two questions. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have put your question.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : No, Sir. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not think that I am so weak that I cannot enforce discipline in the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : I am still on the clarifications. ... (*Interruptions*) I am just asking the clarifications. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do it. How long will you take to put a question?

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, I will take only two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am going out of my way and trying to help in this available time and within the available rules. But nobody bothers to consider what are the problems of the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Secondly, I want to know whether the Central Government would construct a check dam at the entry of the Karaikal region to store the water and enable the farmers to use the water for agricultural operations and save them from non-availability of water. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have totally misused the opportunity.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, the Polavaram Project is a dream project of people from Andhra Pradesh from nine districts numbering three crores. The project was taken up two years back as per the Bachawat Award. There was a clear-cut agreement between the Orissa and Andhra Pradesh Governments. If there were to be submergence in Orissa because of this project, both the Governments have agreed that the Orissa Government will have an option of either asking for constructing an earthen bund in the area to prevent submergence or pay cost towards compensation to the Orissa Government. So, there is no violation of constructing this project to a height of 150 feet. Now, the Andhra Pradesh Government has started DPR and is seeking clarifications from the Ministry of Water Resources.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister when this DPR will be cleared without any further delay.
... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, hon. Minister. I am extremely sorry. I have never allowed more than five Members.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister. Otherwise, I will conclude the discussion.

... (*Interruptions*)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको यह शोभा नहीं देता। Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you are such a senior Member. Your name was not there. In the Calling Attention notice, your name was not there. You know the rules. Only five Members are allowed.

... (*Interruptions*)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर आप पूरा डिसकशन करना चाहते हैं तो उसके लिए समय देंगे।

... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Rawat, your Leader is waiting to raise a very important matter and other hon. Members are waiting. You are disturbing your Leader.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow the discussion. But it should not be in the name of Calling Attention. May I make it clear? I will not allow deliberate violation of the rule. I have been myself suggesting that on all important matters, give notice under Rule 193. I am prepared to consider. I am allowing the Calling Attention every day. Since I have become Speaker, I have allowed 78 Calling Attention matters. Please find out as to how many were allowed earlier. If you do not help me, how do I go about it? I am trying to do my best.

... (Interruptions)

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : इस पर डिबेट होनी चाहिए।... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप नोटिस दीजिए। Why should I stretch it [R19]? [R20]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (BALASORE): Sir, I come from a different party.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the hon. Minister's statement.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you full respect.

... (Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपसे हाथ जोड़कर माफी मांगते हैं कि आज आप बैठ जाइए।

... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपसे मैंने हाथ जोड़कर रिक्वेस्ट की है।

... (व्यवधान)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the initial statement of Shri Mahtab created a situation of joy in my heart and mind when he said that he and his colleagues are not against any development project or against the Polavaram Project.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : We are not against it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: That was a very good statement. That should be the spirit. We want development. We also take care of those people who become oustees. It has to be an equal concern. You have started very well on that.

Initially, I want to share this information with the august House that Andhra Pradesh wants to build the Polavaram Project. It will generate 960 MW of power and it will irrigate 4.69 lakh hectares. So, it will be a great situation of development for Andhra Pradesh. The Godavari Tribunal is very clear on building of the dam and on the treatment of the oustees on the basis of equity and justice. That is fully there.

Now, submergence in Andhra Pradesh is to the extent of 601 sq. kms; in Madhya Pradesh – now Chattishgarh - it will be 24 sq. kms. and in Orissa, it will be just 12 sq. kms. Shri Mahtab and his colleagues raised the question whether the height would be 150 feet or could it go to 180 feet. First of all, I must inform this august House what the Tribunal wanted in that way. This paragraph has to go on record. It says:

“The States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh agree for the construction of Polavaram Project of the State of Andhra Pradesh, so that the maximum submersion in the State of Orissa territory at Motu/Konta does not exceed R.L. +150 ft. due to all effects including backwater effect. The Polavaram project shall be designed for the maximum probable flood in consultation with the Central Water Commission so as not to exceed the limit of submergence mentioned above. For the submerged lands and properties both of the Government as well as private parties, the cost of compensation and rehabilitation on the basis of the norms in vogue in the State of Orissa at the time of the construction of the projects shall be charged to the project. Model villages with facilities/amenities etc. shall be constructed at the cost of the project before the submergence actually take place.”

There is another paragraph explaining this further. Therefore, I must come quickly to Shri Mahtab's question which is definite. There is no provision and there is no question of taking the dam to 180 feet. But the Godavari Tribunal has taken this decision by way of precaution. It just mentioned this because sometimes you may not have control on the water that flow especially when you get torrential rains. So, they further clarified:

“(a) pay compensation towards all buildings with their appurtenant lands situated above RL +150 (one hundred and fifty) feet which will be affected due to all effects including backwater effect and rehabilitate the oustees, etc. the same pattern as below RL+150 (one hundred and fifty) feet at the project cost;” or

Now, I have to make one point clear. If there is some increase in the FRL of the dam which is 150 feet, it cannot be done unless the Orissa Government falls in line through argument, through discussion. The Central Water Commission will be involved at that point of time. But, as the situation obtains now, I have explained that the Central Water Commission is appraising the whole project.... (*Interruptions*) The whole project is under appraisal.

MR. SPEAKER: You have got a very good and definite statement that it will be 150 feet.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: The Central Water Commission is appraising. The whole project is under appraisal. I have stated that the Ministry of Environment and Forests has granted the Environment Clearance permission....
(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : It was granted only from environment angle and not that of forest angle....
(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : When the dam design has not been finalised, how can they give clearance?... (Interruptions[R21])

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, I have not finished.

But as soon as I landed in the Ministry, I took up the matter with both the Chief Ministers namely, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the Chief Minister of Orissa. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh came to meet me on the 7th of February, 2006 and we discussed the Godavari Award. I must say in this august House that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh took a very reasonable position. He said that the Godavari Tribunal Award will be honoured in letter and spirit and he would take measures to get in touch with the Government of Orissa. He said that officer-level meetings would be held and then he would talk to the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa. I have also written a letter to him saying that he must talk to the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa. He did talk to him and thereafter on the 27th of February, the Chief Minister of Orissa came to me and discussed this project. He said that he had no objection provided the Godavari Award was implemented fully. He said, 'if we are compensated we have no objection'. So, that is the position.

After that, I am in touch with both the Chief Ministers through letters and it was on the 17th of March I had alerted the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and I will read the last part of my letter to him. It says:

“Based on the determination of the back water level, the Government of Orissa should communicate to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Central Water Commission which of the two options as contained in the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal Award they would prefer to exercise.”

So, options are available to the Government of Orissa. Unless the Government of Orissa exercises the option, nothing can work. Therefore, there is no danger of anything because the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh said – it is a record in my Ministry – that he would abide by the Godavari Award. This is what I wanted to say in response to the question raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab. ... (Interruptions)

There was another question raised by him whether the DPR will be available. We have to be transparent. We are a democracy. The DPR will be prepared and it will be available to the Government of Orissa also. Why not? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Nothing else will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not prepared to listen to the Minister, I will go to the next item.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jual Oram, you had been a Minister. You have to show maturity. Please take your seat.

श्री जुएल ओराम (सुन्दरगढ़) : मैं भी मिनिस्टर रह चुका हूँ, लेकिन माननीय मंत्री जी उड़ीसा में जो प्रॉब्लम हो रही है, उसके बारे में कुछ नहीं बोल रहे हैं।... (ब्यवधान)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I have not yet finished. Please listen to me fully.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two projects.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that. I cannot dictate to him what he will say nor can you dictate to him.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: For further safeguard and to be sure about the final agreement, I have called a meeting of the two Chief Ministers in August, but because of the Session that has been postponed to September. So, that will be finalised to my satisfaction and I will do the needful.

MR. SPEAKER: Your feelings have been recorded with the whole House and I am sure the Minister will keep that in mind.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, Shri Arjun Sethi almost repeated the same thing about 180 ft. There is no question of going up to 180 ft. If we have to go up to 180 ft. level, it will have to be done with the permission of the Central Water Commission, with the permission of the Government of Orissa and by taking all precautions in respect of compensation to be paid to the Government of Orissa. It will be done to their satisfaction. Therefore, I have answered to the question of Shri Arjun Sethi.

Prof. Ramadass talked about Cauvery river water dispute. I cannot give an answer to that now. That is a different situation, but I will examine and let him know the position.

MR. SPEAKER: You please examine and let him know about Cauvery.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy said that Orissa should not be at the receiving end. I agree with him that there is no question about it. It is an assurance to the House that Orissa would not be at the receiving end.

Then, as far as clearance from the Central Water Commission is concerned, I would like to say that the Central Water Commission is only passing through the appraisal process[\[k22\]](#).

Shri [Rs23]K.S. Rao says that it is a dream project for Andhra Pradesh. I agree with him that it is a dream project for them and they have development. But we have to take care of oustees and Orissa will have to be compensated fully in response to the Godavari Tribunal verdict.

MR. SPEAKER: Also look at the environment clearance. I am speaking on your behalf.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, there is no delay and therefore, everything will go by the verdict of the Godavari Tribunal.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : We are not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister... (*Interruptions*)
It will jeopardise the interest of Orissa. We are against it... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, he has not answered to my query. When the design has not yet been finalised and when it is being studied by the CWC, how has the Ministry of Environment given the clearance?... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said on your behalf how the environment clearance was given.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, I am the Minister of Water Resources. I am not the Minister of Environment.

MR. SPEAKER: He is not the Minister of Environment. You please find out and let them know.

Now, we come to the important matters after the Question Hour. Shri Prabhunath Singh.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, we are not satisfied with the answer of the hon. Minister; so we are walking out in protest.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. That is your democratic right.

12.52 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and some other

hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Sir, we are also not satisfied with the answer of the hon. Minister; so we are also walking out in protest.

12.52½ hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Bikram Keshari Deo and some other
hon. Members left the House.)*

MR. SPEAKER: I hope, it is not against the Speaker!

... *(Interruptions)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सब की बारी लंच के बाद आयेगी। प्रभुनाथ सिंह जी, आप बोलिये।

... *(व्यवधान)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices from 58 hon. Members, so I cannot possibly do it by 1 p.m. Therefore, please cooperate.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate, I am earnestly appealing to you.

... *(व्यवधान)*