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Title : Regarding Polavaram Inter State Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (BHADRAK): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government, through you, to an assurance given by the then hon. Minister of Water Resources in this august House in reply to a Calling Attention Notice. I would like to quote one sentence in this regard. The hon. Minister said, "It is an assurance to the House that Orissa would not be at the receiving end." This is the assurance he gave to the hon. Members of this august House as well as to the people of Orissa.

Madam, I am not against any project that is being constructed by any particular State. But when it comes to an inter-State irrigation project, certainly as a Member representing a neighbouring State that is going to be affected, I will speak for my own State. So, please allow me a minute or two.

Madam, Polavaram irrigation project is being constructed by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. I have nothing against the construction of the project. But since it is an inter-State river project, we must adhere to the principles and guidelines for execution of such projects. On that particular occasion in the House, the Members from Orissa raised three objections. First, the Detailed Project Report of the project was not made available to the State Government of Orissa even after its repeated requests not only to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh but even to the Central Government. Secondly, there is confusion over what the height of that dam will ultimately be? The Godavari River Tribunal had recommended a height of 150 ft and we had no objection to that. But it was alleged that the height of the dam was being raised to 182 ft. If that happens, there would be a large scale submergence of areas inhabited by tribals in the State of Orissa, in the Districts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Sundergarh, Kalahandi, etc. Not only that, there will be submergence of vast areas in the States of Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra also and they have also raised objections. However, what the height of the dam will be has not been made clear so far.

Thirdly, the State Government of Orissa repeatedly requested the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for the details of the project. The then hon. Minister of Water Resources assured the House that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh will certainly make available all the required information to the State Government of Orissa before the project is approved by the Central Water Commission of the Government of India. This assurance has not been adhered to. On the other hand, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh pleaded that this should be declared a national project. I do not mind if it is declared as a national project. But the interests of the State Governments of Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra should also be honoured.

I, therefore, request the Union Minister of Water Resources to come to the House and make a statement on these points. We would like to know what the status of this project now is. The Technical Advisory Committee of the Central Water Commission has already approved the project. I, therefore, would request through you Madam, the government of India to direct its Ministry of Water Resources to give clarification on all my points. [\[KMR11\]](#) The Central Government must ensure that the interests of the State Government of Orissa and also of the Governments of the neighbouring States will not be hampered and also there will be no submergence of the area unless all the States are agreeable to it.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, I would like to associate with him.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (BHUBANESWAR): Madam, my name may also be associated with him.

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1400 hours.

13.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock [\[R12\]](#).

14.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Four Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

