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Title: Need to take steps to maintain the water level at Konta/Motu of Polavaram Project to save the villages of Odisha from submergence.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, I stand here to refer to an issue and I am conscious about that issue and I think the Government is also conscious about it. But I do not know where to start and where to end and what to say and what not to say. The issue is relating to Indira Sagar multipurpose project that is being constructed by Government of Andhra Pradesh on river Godavari about 42 kilometres upstream of the famous Godavari Barrage, popularly known as Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage.

Various clearances have been given to Polavaram project either in violation of the GWDT award or not in conformity with national standards and norms. Government of Odisha and Chhattisgarh were not invited at the time of TAC clearance of the project by the CWC and the environment and forest clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The views of Odisha were not considered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs before giving the R&R clearance to the project.

Three Ministries of the Government repeatedly have been going against the interest of the tribal people of Malkangiri which is the remotest District and a Maoist affected District of our country. This has happened continuously. In 2005, one clearance was given by CWC. And subsequently, Ministry of Environment and Forests had given clearance. And very recently, Ministry of Tribal Affairs also has given clearance. On these three issues, of course the Odisha Government has gone to the Supreme Court. The Case is pending and the Odisha Government is fighting it out there.

Why I wanted to raise it as an Adjournment Motion was, I have also given a Calling Attention notice, so that we can get a response from the Government. Two days back or yesterday, Minister of Water Resources has come out with a statement outside the House. It is in the electronic media. Our demand is let the Government come to the House and tell us what its position is. That is why I have raised it here. Whatever she said is her opinion. That is a suggestion which she has given. But at least that suggestion is from the Government. She has said, let both the Chief Ministers sit and discuss. But our concern is, the Central Government has become a party instead of becoming an arbitrator, as I cited, through the three Ministries. We should have been called.

As per the tripartite agreement, Godavari river is a riparian river. In 1978 and 1980, two agreements were conducted. In both the agreements it was stated that respective Government of Odisha, respective Government of the then Madhya Pradesh now Chhattisgarh, should be consulted on every matter. There are specific laws relating to protection of tribals because these are scheduled areas as per the Constitution. A schedule area means when certain people are being displaced, when certain forest area is being inundated, specific law comes into force. That has not been done.

Now the Government of Telangana also has intervened in Supreme Court because their area also is a tribal area, is a scheduled area. Therefore, my concern here is, Government should desist from becoming a party to this issue. Government should come out with a statement. And we will appreciate if it becomes the arbitrator. It can call all the three Governments together and sit down and discuss and find a solution.

We are not against the Polavaram project. I had said that at the initial stage when this 16th Lok Sabha was formed. But today I am forced to say, stop the construction of this project. Until and unless it is stopped, we cannot find a solution to the issue that we are raising again and again. Therefore, I would say, stop it. There are alternative methods which the Government can consider. The initial agreement was that because this project is being constructed in Andhra Pradesh, the height of the dam would be such that it will not inundate a single inch of Odisha. Unilaterally, a decision was taken and it has been approved surreptitiously by the Central Water Commission. Now a large area is being inundated and tribal people are affected.

Therefore, my earnest request to the Government is that they should come with a Statement. Hon. Speaker Madam, my request to you is to allow us a Call Attention Notice so that at least the Government can come up with a Statement and we can put forth our viewpoint more conveniently. ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: यह कोई डिस्कशन का विषय नहीं है। उन्होंने कोई एलियेशन भी नहीं किया है। Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issues raised by

S/Shri Ravindra Kumar Jena,

Prem Singh Chandumajra,

Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Dr. Virendra Kumar.

Dr. Udit Raj,

Shri Rattan Lal Katheria,

Shri Rajendra Agarwal and Shri Ram Kishore Sharma.

HON. SPEAKER: Now we take up the Supplementary List of Business. There is only one item in the list, the introduction of Sugar Cess (Amendment) Bill.