

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 06.12.2010
ANSWERED ON
POLAVARAM DAM .

2819

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA

Will the Minister of COALENVIROMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has noted the articles on Polavaram Dam published in the media;
- (b) the steps taken to study the diverse issues raised;
- (c) whether the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) is looking at all issues raised; and
- (d) the measures proposed to invite concerned people for discussion?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) The articles on Polavaram Dam published in the media are under examination of the Ministry. The petitions received by the members of the Forests Advisory Committee against the grant of final approval of the Central Government, under the Forest (Conservations) Act, 1980, for diversion of 3731.07 hectare forest land for Indira Sagar (Polavaram) Multipurpose Project across Godavari river in the Andhra Pradesh were discussed in the Forest Advisory Committee meeting convened on 25.10.2010. The Forest Advisory Committee after examination of the petitions recommended that these complaints may be sent to the Ministry of Environment & Forests to take appropriate action at the Ministry level. The Ministry may give special emphasis to the following:

(i) Examine the alleged FRA violations and request the State Government to provide details on FRA compliance as per the law and circular of August 2009.

(ii) Examine the issue of forest land diversion for the embankments which are planned to prevent the submergence in adjoining states (the existing project report makes no mention of forest diversion for this purpose, which may be on a large scale and needs to be included in the Project Proposal).

(iii) Examine the discrepancies between the facts submitted when seeking clearance from the FAC and EAC respectively and take action if necessary.

(iv) Establish a more stringent monitoring mechanism to ensure that conditions upon which clearance was given are fulfilled. Depending on necessity, the concerned people including project proponents and the officials of the State Forest Departments will be invited for discussion on the issue.