

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No- 138
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 02/02/2022

DISPLACEMENT OF TRIBALS DUE TO POLAVARAM DAM

138. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of tribals to be displaced in different States due to the Polavaram Dam, State-wise;
- (b) whether Gram Sabhas have been held to hear the tribal's concerns before proceeding with the construction of Polavaram Dam; and
- (c) the steps undertaken to protect the land and livelihood of the tribals affected by the Polavaram Dam?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESHWAR TUDU)

(a) As per information provided by the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti and by the Water Resources Department (WRD), Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) that total number of Project Displaced Families (PDFs) in Andhra Pradesh is 1,06,006; out of which 56,504 PDFs (43,689- East Godavari Distt. & 12,815- West Godavari Distt.) comprising of 1,64,752 persons as per 2011 census belong to the tribal community, due to construction of Polavaram Irrigation Project. The PDFs are tentative though the Socio Economic Survey (SES) was completed in +45 Contour of Chinturu & Yetapaka Units, PDF nos will be finalized only after approval of draft R&R Schemes.

PPA has also informed that the Project envisages construction of Protective embankments in the territory of Odisha & Chhattisgarh to avoid submergence. However, if Protective embankments are not constructed in the territory of Odisha & Chhattisgarh, then the number of Project Affected Families (PAFs) in Odisha State are 1,002 (Out of which 913 PAFs belong to tribal community) and Project Affected Families in Chhattisgarh State are 2,335 (out of which 1294 PAFs belong to tribal community).

(b) Water Resources Department (WRD), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has informed that as per Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (APESA) Act 1996, the Gram Sabhas in all the affected areas of Polavaram Irrigation Project have been conducted in the three Districts of combined State of Andhra Pradesh (before bifurcation) i.e., East Godavari - 8 Nos of Gram Panchayats, West Godavari - 8 Nos Gram Panchayats and Khamma - 60 Nos of Gram Panchayats .

(c) WRD, GoAP has informed that the Tribal PDFs who lost their lands were provided equivalent land to land or upto Ac. 2.50 cts whichever is low. The Tribal PDFs were rehabilitated in the Scheduled Areas to retain their ethnic, linguistic and cultural identity.

WRD, GoAP further informed that under 2nd schedule of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013 an amount of Rs. 6.86 lakhs are being paid. In addition to the above, Un-employed youth are giving training in skill development programmes to eke out their livelihood.
