

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1517

ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

DISPLACEMENT DUE TO THE POLAVARAM PROJECT

1517. **SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI**

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of villages that are likely to be submerged in Odisha after the completion of Polavaram Project, and the total number of families that will be displaced;
- (b) the steps Government has taken to ensure the rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced people from the affected villages in the Malkangiri district; and
- (c) the measures that have been taken by Government to address the concerns raised by Odisha, regarding the negative impact of the project?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

- (a) As per Socio Economic Survey, 2005, if option of protective embankments with adequate drainage arrangement to protect the lands and properties above EL +150 ft against submergence is not exercised by Odisha, then 8 nos revenue villages, with 1,002 estimated project affected families in Malkangiri District of Odisha are likely to be affected by submergence due to completion of Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP).
- (b) Polavaram irrigation project is being taken up as per the interstate agreement between the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (now Chhattisgarh) & Odisha dated 02.04.1980, and also as per the provisions of Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal (GWDT) Award, 1980 and as per these, Odisha can exercise option either for protective embankments with adequate drainage arrangements to protect the lands and properties likely to be affected above RL+150 ft in their territories or for compensation (rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced people from the affected villages) for the areas and properties going to be affected on the same pattern as below +150 ft, at the project cost. Further, provision of construction of protective embankment with suitable drainage arrangements for total length of 30.20 km (12 km along Sileru River and 18.20 km along Sabari River) in Malkangiri District of Odisha has been kept in the project.
- (c) For resolution of concerns of Odisha raised vide letter dated 10.07.2023 from Government of Odisha, which highlighted the apprehensions of Odisha mainly on backwater study of PIP, extent of submergence in Odisha due to the project and also in compliance of the directions given by Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 06.09.2022 in matter of Original Suite 04/2007, several meetings have been held in Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti and Central Water Commission with the officers of the stakeholder States including Odisha and steps were taken for seeking convergence on resolution of issues.
