

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1519

ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

POLAVARAM PROJECT

1519.# SHRI MAYANKBHAI JAYDEVBHAI NAYAK
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD

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

- (a) the details of primary concerns related to deadlines and safety associated with the Polavaram project and the manner in which Government is addressing these issues through consultations with experts; and
(b) the specific recommendations made by experts to minimize safety risks and ensure that the project is completed on time?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The primary concerns related to safety and project completion of Polavaram irrigation project are detailed as below;

- i. Seepage in Earth Core Rock Fill (ECRF) dam pit area in Gap-2 portion.
- ii. Health assessment & strengthening of upstream & downstream cofferdams.
- iii. Ground Improvement works in foundation of ECRF dam in Gap-1 & Gap-2.
- iv. De-watering arrangements in main dam area during monsoon season to facilitate uninterrupted construction.
- v. Design, planning & construction of new Diaphragm wall in Gap-2 portion and ECRF dam in Gap-1 & Gap-II portions.

The Government has engaged Panel of Experts (PoE) for Polavaram irrigation project comprising of four international experts for providing consultation on technical & construction management issues concerning safety and completion of Polavaram irrigation project. PoE has visited the project during 30th June to 3rd July, 2024 in first visit and during 6th to 9th November, 2024 in second visit. The key concerning issues of the Polavaram irrigation project were discussed during these visits.

(b) The PoE has recommended following steps to minimize safety risks and to ensure timely completion of Polavaram irrigation project;

- i. Remedial measures to address the seepage issue from both coffer dams, based on the test results.
- ii. Buttress berm construction in both cofferdams for safety considerations.
- iii. Water management plan for taking up the constructions works with safety.
- iv. Ways to address the issues in ground improvement works.
- v. Suggestions on planning & construction of new Diaphragm wall.
- vi. Tests suggested to finalize design of main dam at Gap-1 and Gap-2.
- vii. PoE has given its observations on project planning, construction management and site organization structure to minimize the safety risks and in-time project completion.
