

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 86**

ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

**REDUCTION OF WATER STORAGE CAPACITY**

86. SHRI YERRAM VENKATA SUBBA REDDY

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Union Cabinet has reduced water storage capacity to 41.5 meters (135 feet);
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the project is going to be completed with 41.5 meters storage capacity and the Cabinet has approved ₹ 30,436 crores for the same;
- (c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had earlier sent proposals for fixing water storage capacity at 45.72 meters (150 feet) and also sought revised estimates; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for reducing the capacity and not accepting the revised cost estimates of the project of ₹ 55,657 crores?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

**(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)**

**(a)** Water storage capacity of the Polavaram irrigation project has not been reduced and project is being executed in accordance with the provisions of GWDT Award-1980 with the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) at EL + 45.72m.

**(b) to (d)** The Second Revised Cost Estimate of Polavaram Irrigation Project submitted by Government of Andhra Pradesh was accepted by the Advisory Committee of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation on Irrigation, Flood Control & Multipurpose Projects in its 141st meeting held in February, 2019 for Rs. 55,656.87 crore.

To accrue the early benefits from the project, Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted revised cost estimate in August, 2023 with water storage up to EL +41.15 m - Minimum Draw Down level, which included construction of the project components such as dam, spillway & appurtenant structures for Full Reservoir Level at EL + 45.72m and Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation & Resettlement works up to EL +41.15 m. Further, Government of India has approved ₹ 30,436.95 crore for 'Revised cost for completion of the Polavaram Irrigation Project with water storage up to EL +41.15 meter i.e. Minimum Draw Down level'.

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