

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1220**

ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

**BACKWATER STUDY IN RIPARIAN STATE POLAVARAM PROJECT**

1220. SMT. SULATA DEO SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI

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

- (a) whether any backwater impact study has been conducted in the riparian States of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana regarding the submergence of villages and forest areas due to the Polavaram Project;
- (b) the number of villages in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana that are expected to be submerged once the Polavaram Project is completed;
- (c) the estimated number of people who will lose their livelihoods in these States due to the project's completion; and
- (d) the number of wildlife species that will be affected in the State of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana once the Polavaram Project is completed?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

- (a) Backwater impact studies of the Polavaram project has been carried out for its riparian states, published in the Gopalakrishnan Committee Report in June, 2011.
- (b) 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 and Chhattisgarh, then on completion of Polavaram irrigation project 8 nos. villages in Odisha, 4 nos. villages in Chhattisgarh and 1 village in Telangana are expected to be submerged.
- (c) It is estimated that total 1,93,357 persons are likely to be affected by Polavaram irrigation project, out of these 1,75,275 persons are estimated in undivided Andhra Pradesh (combined Andhra Pradesh & Telangana), 6,316 persons in Odisha and 11,766 are in Chhattisgarh. The project affected people are being compensated as per Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act, 2013).
- (d) As per EIA study of project carried out in 2005, very limited area of reserve forest under submergence falls in Odisha and Chhattisgarh. The fauna of reserved forest under project submergence area comprises of spotted deer, sambar, hunting dog, bison, monkey, wild boar, jungle cat, very limited number of tigers etc. Compensatory afforestation and development of habitats for the relevant fauna are being implemented for proper settlement of the species.

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