

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3717
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2016

USE OF EXPLOSIVES BY POLAVARAM PROJECT AUTHORITY

3717. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of explosives used by Polavaram Project Authority during 2014- 15 and 2015-16;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that Polavaram Project Authority is using explosives very casually to save costs of using earth-moving equipment, if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether any permission in this regard has been obtained by the Authority from concerned Directorate of Explosives, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to stop the unauthorised use of explosives and without consultation with human settlements and wildlife in the adjacent Papikonda game sanctuary?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(Dr. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

- (a) As intimated by the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) the quantum of explosives used during 2014-15 and 2015-16 are 2839 MT and 5745 MT respectively.
- (b) to (d) As per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, blasting operations are required for excavation in rock portion for construction of different component of works. The Earth Work Excavation is carried out strictly in accordance with the safety precautions as per clause 78 of General Conditions of Contract (GCC); duly taking all precautionary measures for storage, transportation and handling of explosives during blasting operations in accordance with Indian Explosives Act and other relevant rules during the excavation in rock.

Further, the contracting agency has obtained no objection certificate from the District Joint Collector and Additional District Magistrate East Godavari District as well as District Collector & District Magistrate, West Godavari District.

As per the explosives rules, explosives are used in the required quantity during the blasting operations.