

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6370
ANSWERED ON 05.04.2018

NORMS FOR NATIONAL PROJECTS

6370. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

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

- (a) the norms/criterion laid down for selection of National Projects or to declare a project as National Project;
- (b) whether the Government has followed the said norms/criterion in declaring the Polavaram Project as a National Project and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the funds provided for construction activities of the said project so far;
- (d) whether the Government has received any requests from Odisha for addressing the issue of submergence of villages before giving go ahead signal to the said project and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken thereon; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the issue of submergence of villages in Odisha due to Polavaram Project?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) Some of the main criteria for selection of National Projects are as under:

1. International projects where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where planning and early completion of the project is necessary in the interest of the country.
2. Inter-State projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of inter-State issues relating to sharing of costs, rehabilitation, aspects of power production etc., including river interlinking projects.
3. Intra-State projects with additional potential of more than 2,00,000 hectares and with no dispute regarding sharing of water and where hydrology is established.

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(b) The Polavaram project has been declared as National Project under section 90 (1) of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. As per the 95th Technical Advisory Committee meeting held on 20.01.2009, the annual irrigation is 4.36 lakh ha, which is more than 2 lakh ha to qualify as national project.

(c) The project was funded under AIBP up to 31.3.2014 and an amount of Rs.562.47 crore was released for this project under AIBP. Further, after the project was declared as National Project, Central Assistance of Rs.5364.16 crore has been provided for this project after 1.4.2014.

(d) to (e) Construction of Polavaram Project on Godavari River is in terms of the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) Award.

The Governments of Odisha and Chhattisgarh have filed Suits before the Hon'ble Supreme Court raising objections in respect of this project. So far, there is no order from any Court against construction of project.

An inter-State meeting in this regard was held on 02.06.2016. The Governments of Odisha and Chhattisgarh expressed concerns on design flood, back water calculations, etc. As reported, the Government of Andhra Pradesh shared the relevant details with the Governments of Odisha and Chhattisgarh as required by them during the meeting.
