

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *115

ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

FUNDS FOR POLAVARAM PROJECT

*115 SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a high level meeting has recently been held on the issue of releasing of funds for Polavaram project and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has accepted the proposal of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for releasing Rs. 10,000 crores as ad hoc money for taking up work of Polavaram irrigation project and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Ministry to release Rs. 10,000 crores as ad hoc grants to the State;
- (c) whether it is true that the Finance Ministry has approved releasing Rs. 12,911 crores for Polavaram Project recently and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is also true that Rs. 17,140 crores is required to complete the first phase of Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) package covering 36 affected villages;
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry to get the remaining amount of Rs. 4,200 crores approved by the Cabinet;
- (f) the time by which the said amount is likely to be released; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Ministry to release arrears of Rs. 1300 crores already spent on the said project by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

- (a) to (g) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *115 TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023 REGARDING “FUNDS FOR POLAVARAM PROJECT”.

(a) Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP) has been declared as a National Project under the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act, 2014. As per approval given by Ministry of Finance in 2016, Government of India is to provide 100% of the remaining cost of the irrigation component only of the project for the period starting from 01.04.2014. Further, Government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing the project on behalf of Government of India. PIP, being a National Project, is monitored in meetings held from time to time at different levels in Government of India, including meetings chaired by Hon’ble Minister of Jal Shakti.

(b) & (c) Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has vide Office Memorandum dated 05.06.2023, communicated no objection to additional funding for completing the balance work of PIP for filling of water up to 41.15 meters, amounting to Rs.10,911.15 crore and Rs. 2,000 crore for cost of repairing damages caused to PIP by flood, subject to the approval of the Cabinet, by modifying the earlier Cabinet decision. The proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for ad hoc release of Rs. 10,000 crore is subsumed in the above no objection of Department of Expenditure.

(d) to (f): Implementation of PIP is being considered in two phases. In this regard, Government of Andhra Pradesh has, vide letter dated 05.06.2023, submitted revised cost estimate for balance works for phase I, i.e., for storage of water upto EL 41.15 m, for Rs.17,144.06 crore. The proposal includes the cost of rehabilitation and resettlement of additional 16,642 project affected families of 36 villages which are to be partially affected in phase I itself, instead of phase II as per earlier plan. The said proposal is required to be firmed up and approved by the Government of India. Thereafter, the releases are to be processed from time to time as per the approved modalities, depending on the physical and financial progress achieved on PIP by the implementing agency, i.e., Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(g): Government of India has been reimbursing, from time to time, the expenditure incurred by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on the project with effect from 01.04.2014. The reimbursement is done upon receipt of verified bills and recommendations from the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) and Central Water Commission (CWC). Since 01.04.2014 up to May, 2023, an amount of Rs. 14,969.36 crore has been reimbursed to Government of Andhra Pradesh by Government of India, against its total approved liability of Rs. 15,667.90 crore as balance cost of irrigation component only of PIP, at 2013-14 price level.
