

The matter became subjudice with several petitions in the Kerala and Tamil Nadu High Courts. All these cases were transferred to the Hon'ble Supreme Court who heard the matter on 28.4.2000 and asked Minister (WR) to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers. Minister (WR) convened the Inter-State meeting on 19.5.2000 and as decided in the meeting an Expert Committee under Member (Design & Research), CWC with representative from both the States was constituted to advise on the issue of raising the water level. The Committee in its report of March, 2001 opined that with the strengthening measures already implemented, the water level can be raised from 136 ft. to 142ft. without endangering safety of dam.

The report of the Export Committee was filed in the Supreme Court and also sent to the State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Supreme Court gave a judgement on 27.2.2006 directing the water level of Mulla Periyar dam to be raised to 142 ft. Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu filed an Original Suit No. 3 of 2006 in respect of Mulla Periyar Dam before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court passed an order on 25.9.2006 stating "the two State Governments independently or with the intervention of the Union of India may try to sort out, if possible, the dispute".

The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) convened an inter-State meeting to the Chief Ministers of States of Tamil Nadu & Kerala on Mulla Periyar dam issue on 29.11.2006 and again with the Minister concerned of two States on 18.12.2006. No solution acceptable to both States emerged in these meetings. Thereafter, the Supreme Court in the hearing dated 18.2.2010 has directed Central Government to set up an empowered committee within four weeks which would hear parties to the suit on all issues that will be raised before them and furnish a report, as far as possible, within six months from their constitution. The matter is subjudice.

Irrigation projects under AIBP in Himachal Pradesh

†1655. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received some reports regarding small irrigation projects for approval under Fina Singh medium irrigation project and Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) from State Government of Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details regarding approval of these projects and expenditure to be incurred on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :
(a) and (b) Phina Singh Medium irrigation project of Himachal Pradesh could be considered for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

inclusion in the AIBP as per guidelines of the AIBP in force from time to time which *inter-alia* requires that state government obtains investment clearance from the Planning Commission and submits AIBP proposal to Central Water Commission. The detailed project report of Phina Singh medium irrigation project of Himachal Pradesh has been received in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic clearance. The technical appraisal of the project has been completed and the cost of the project has been finalized for Rs. 147.15 crore. The proposal involves 28.23 ha of forest land for which state government is required to submit forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The project proposal could be considered for techno-economic clearance to be followed by the investment clearance from the Planning Commission after the state government submits requisite forest clearance.

Pending projects of Odisha

1656. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects from Odisha that are pending with the Central Water Commission (CWC) for clearance, mention the names of the projects and details on their status;

(b) the reasons for the delay in approval;

(c) whether Government has given its nod to Polavaram Project on river Vansadhara to State Government of Andhra Pradesh despite the opposition of Odisha; and

(d) the number of areas of land that would be submerged in Odisha with the construction of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :

(a) The detailed status of appraisal of irrigation of Odisha is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) Delay in approval occurs due to delay in submission of compliances to the observations of the central appraising agencies and delay in submission of mandatory clearances as required for the project by the State Government.

(c) and (d) It has been ensured by the project authorities of Polavaram project that no land in Odisha will be submerged by the Polavaram project.