Construction of Barrages on Godavari

770. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to instruct the Maharashtra Government to stop the construction of 11 barrages on Godavari intended to utilize over and above their share of water;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the current status of the request; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken against Maharashtra Government for constructing these barrages without furnishing details to the Central Government in contravention of the decision taken in the second inter-State meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh *vide* their letter dated 27.5.2005 brought to the notice of Ministry of Water Resources that the Government of Maharashtra had taken up construction of 11 new barrages across main river Godavari including Babhali Barrage in violation of the inter-state agreement dated 6.10.1975 between the two States.

(c) The following actions have been taken by Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water Commission (CWC) in this regard:

i. The Member, Water Planning &Project (WP&P), CWC convened two interstate meetings in this regard with the technical officers of the Government of Maharashtra and Government of Andhra Pradesh on 11.7.2005 and 5.10.2005.

ii. Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources convened an interstate meeting in this regard with the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra on 4.4.2006.

iii The Chairman, CWC convened two meetings of technical committee constituted to look into these issues with the representatives of the Government of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh on 26.4.2006 & 19.5.2006.

iv. The Chairman, CWC convened another meeting with the representatives of the Government of Maharashtra and Government of Andhra Pradesh on 21.9.2006 in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Government of Andhra Pradesh filed an Original Suit under Article 131 of Constitution against State of Maharashtra and Union of India and Others. In the Suit, the State of Andhra Pradesh has prayed to the Court to grant a permanent injunction restraining the State of Maharashtra from undertaking or proceeding with the construction of Babhali Barrage within the reservoir water spread area of Pochampad Project. The Hon'ble Supreme Court heard the matter on 26th April, 2007 and passed the order that the State of Maharashtra may go ahead with the construction of Babhli barrage but it shall not install the proposed gates on the barrage until further orders. The matter is now sub-judice.

Further, the Government of Maharashtra has informed that lower Godavari (Vishnupuri) project which was earlier approved for 11.4 TMC has been revised. The revised proposal envisages utilisation of 10.5 TMC against 11.4 TMC approved for it earlier. The 10 other barrages are part of the revised proposal. However the revised proposal has not been received in CWC so far.

In view of the decision taken in the second inter-state meeting held on 5.10.2005, the Government of Maharashtra has furnished information for the projects constructed prior to 6.10.75 and also for the projects taken up after 6.10.75. However, the details does not include references of approval letters in many cases as asked for by Government of Andhra Pradesh. In this connection, interstate meeting were proposed by CWC May 2009 and subsequently in May, 2010 to resolve the issue. The meetings were not held as Government of Maharashtra informed that the matter of utilization of 60 TMC of Godavari waters by Maharashtra is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and as such, it is not appropriate to hold any meetings in this regard.

Exploitation of ground water

†771. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.