

Construction of Polavaram dam

319. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) is contemplating to construct Polavaram main dam (ECRF Dam) without constructing the coffer dam as approved by the Central Water Commission previously and planning for alternative arrangement, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) been asked to study alternative arrangements, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PPA is conducting studies for alternative arrangements of coffer dam and what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any saving of funds due to this alternative arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):

(a) to (d) NHPC was requested to examine the possibility of following:

- (i) Designing the ECRF and Coffor dam such that coffer dam is integrated into the ECRF dam.

(OR)

Methodology for construction of ECRF dam up to safe flood level in one season without constructing coffer dam all along the whole width of the river.

- (ii) To review the study already carried out for top level of coffer dam at 42.5m for safe flood discharge (1 in 100 year) including the earlier level of coffer dam envisage at 31m in the contract document.

NHPC submitted different alternatives which were examined in the 9th meeting of Dam Design Review Panel (DDRP) held on 5th January, 2018. DDRP observed that the proposals of NHPC are not generating appreciable benefits at this juncture and project authorities may take further action in respect of upstream coffer dam as per originally envisaged schedule.