

As reported by the State Project Authorities, the contract value of the Head Works as per supplementary agreement no. 1/2016-17 dated 07.10.2016 was ₹5385.91 crore. The total cost of part of works entrusted to new agencies sums up to ₹3302.22 crore. Further, a payment of ₹2362.22 crore and ₹707.08 crore have been made to M/s Transtroy (India) Ltd. and to M/s NEC Limited respectively as per claims verified/processed by State Project Authorities.

**National status for Polavaram project**

2857. 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 Polavaram is the only National Project which has to be executed by Government and for which Government has constituted a Special Purpose Vehicle, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the irrigation projects which have been awarded National status and whether the Central or respective State Government is executing the project; and

(c) the details of funding pattern of those projects, including the Polavaram project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) The Government of India has declared 16 projects as National Projects (NPs). Five projects namely Polavaram Irrigation Project (Andhra Pradesh), Saryu Nahar Pariyojana (Uttar Pradesh), Gosikhurd Irrigation Project (Maharashtra), Teesta Barrage Project (West Bengal) and Shahpurkandi Dam Project (Punjab) have been taken up for execution after the concerned State Governments obtained the necessary approvals as per the guidelines of the scheme.

Section 90 of A.P. Reorganization Act, 2014 declares Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP) as a National Project. Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) is established to act as Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) *vide* Government of India (GoI) Notification dated 28th May, 2014 in this regard. Further, as per the decision conveyed by Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure *vide* O.M. F No. 1(2)/PF-1/2014(Pt) dated 30.09.2016, Government of Andhra Pradesh is executing the project on behalf of the Government of India. Other NPs are being executed directly by the concerned State Governments.

(c) At present, the funding ratio for NPs in eight North Eastern States and three Himalayan States is 90 (Centre) : 10 (State) and that for NPs in other States is 60 (Centre) : 40 (State). Regarding PIP, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure *vide* O.M. No. 1(2)/PF-1/2014(Pt) dated 30.09.2016 communicated the approval for funding of the Polavaram Project by the Central Government in the following manner:

"It will provide 100% of the remaining cost of the irrigation component only of the project for the period starting from 1.4.2014- the date on which this project was declared as National Project under the Act, to the extent of the cost of the irrigation component on the date."

#### **Depletion of groundwater level**

2858. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that groundwater level is depleting sharply, year by year, in the country due to indisciplined/over-exploitation of groundwater which is affecting the quality of groundwater and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the updated status of the action taken by Government in coordination with the State Governments to curb the indisciplined/over-exploitation of groundwater and to reverse the groundwater level depletion trend in the country;

(c) whether Government has constituted any Committee to frame guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out groundwater monitoring, four times a year, on regional scale through a network of observation wells in the country. In order to assess the declining/rising trend in water level on a long-term basis, pre-monsoon water level data 2018 has been compared with the decadal average (2008-17) water level. Analysis of data indicates decline in groundwater level in about 52% of the wells and rise in 48% wells being monitored. State-wise details are given in Statement (*See below*).

Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment of the country is periodically carried out jointly by CGWB and State Governments. As per the latest assessment