

Status of construction of Polavaram Project

909. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of construction of Polavaram Project in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the extent to which claims made by Andhra Pradesh Government and reported in the media that 60 per cent of work has been completed is correct;
- (c) whether it is a fact that CAG has stated that completion of Polavaram Project cannot be completed before 2019;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) package for people displaced due to Polavaram Project has not yet been completed; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor and by when R&R package would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) As reported by the Polavaram Project Authority/State Government, more than 64% works of Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP) have been completed.

(c) and (d) As informed by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, noticing shortfall in physical progress of various components of the project, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its report mentioned that it appears the targeted date of June, 2019 may be difficult to achieve. It is further informed by the State Government that in order to accelerate the rate of progress it has deleted some part of main dam works from the scope of existing agency and has entrusted the same to a new construction agency as per relevant provisions and the project is targeted for completion by Dec., 2019.

(e) and (f) As per progress reported by the State Government, out of 105601 Project Displaced Families (PDFs) due to PIP, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) works in respect of 3922 PDFs has been completed. Further steps are being taken to rehabilitate and resettle balance PDFs in phased manner. Entire R&R activities are proposed to be completed well before actual impoundment of water in reservoir.