

Year	Central Assistance (₹ in crore)	Expenditure (₹ in Cr.)
2016-17	-	314.46
2017-18	368.86	112.00
2018-19	197.00	92.30
2019-20	155.67	125.68
(Upto Dec., 2019)		

As intimated by CWC, NLBC project is planned to be completed by March, 2021.

Union Cabinet's decision on Polavaram Expenditure

2497. DR. K. V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Cabinet on 01.05.2014 has taken a decision to bear the entire expenditure on Polavaram National Project including cost escalations and also expenditure on Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement due to new Land Acquisition Act following the mandate of A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above decision of Union Cabinet was implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of decision taken by Union Cabinet resolution dated 15.03.2017 regarding Polavaram Expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) to (e) Union Cabinet on 01.05.2014 has *inter alia* approved, "Bearing of all further expenses on Polavaram Project and that of the Authority by the Central Government out of grants-in-aid under the scheme for the National Project as special dispensation on the funding pattern brought out in Para 5.3 of the Cabinet Note." The said Para 5.3 inter alia mentions that it is proposed that all further expenses on Polavaram Project and that of the Authority may be borne by the Central Government out of grants-in-aid under the scheme for the National Project.

Further, Union Cabinet in its meeting held in March, 2017 approved the proposal of Department of Expenditure seeking approval for funding of Irrigation Component of Polavaram Irrigation Project. In the said proposal, it has interalia been approved that, "Government of India will provide 100% of the remaining cost of the irrigation component only of the Project for the period starting from 01.04.2014, to the extent of the cost of the irrigation component on that date. The cost of the irrigation component as on 01.04.2014 and the expenditure incurred till then will be assessed by Polavaram Project Authority, MoWR, RD and GR and approved by the Department of Expenditure".

Accordingly, the Government of India has been reimbursing the expenditure incurred by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on the Polavaram Irrigation Project, after declaration of this project as National Project with effect from 01.04.2014 upon submission of certified bills by the State Govt. to Polavaram Project Authority (PPA). Total Central Assistance of ₹8514.16 Cr (including Rs 1850 Cr released during February, 2020) has been released to the project since April, 2014.

Groundwater level in rural areas

2498. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the average groundwater level in rural areas of the country;
- (b) whether there is an increase or decrease in the said average when compared to the previous financial year; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) to (c) Central Ground Water Board is periodically monitoring the ground water levels throughout the Country on a regional scale, through a network of monitoring wells. During Pre-monsoon (April-May) 2019, ground water monitoring has been carried out throughout the country including the rural areas, where the majority of the monitoring wells are located. The analysis of the data reveals that out of the Total wells analysed, in majority of the wells (around 70 %), the depth to water level was up to 10 m bgl. Details are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

During Pre-monsoon (April-May) 2018, depth to water level in majority of the wells analysed (around 72%) was within 10 m bgl. Details are given in the Statement-II.