

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 723

ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

**SUBMERGENCE IN ODISHA DUE TO POLAVARAM PROJECT AND IMPACT ON
INHABITANTS**

723. DR. SASMIT PATRA

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) total land area submergence in the State of Odisha due to Polavaram project when it is commissioned;
- (b) total number of people affected due to such submergence;
- (c) the number of them are tribals and their geographical locations;
- (d) steps Government is taking to ensure that Palli Sabhas are done before the submergence; and
- (e) manner in which Government is planning to rehabilitate and resettle them and the total funds to be utilized for the same?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (c) There will be no submergence due to the Polavaram irrigation project in Odisha, if the option of building protective embankments with adequate drainage arrangement to protect the lands and properties above EL +150 ft is exercised by Odisha. However, if this option is not exercised then, as per Socio-economic Survey, 2005, an extent of 648.05 Hectares of land in Odisha will be affected. In this case, total number of project affected families in Odisha was estimated as 1,002 consisting of 6,316 persons in 8 revenue villages of Podia Mandal of Malkangiri District of Odisha. Out of these 1,002 families, 913 families belong to tribal community.

(d) Environment Clearance was accorded by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on 25th Oct, 2005 based on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) studies carried out by the project proponent. In March 2009, the Expert Appraisal Committee of MoEF& CC has directed the project proponent to initiate suitable action by requesting the appropriate authorities in Odisha and Chhattisgarh for conducting public hearings in Odisha & Chhattisgarh in respect of embankment proposal and report back to the Committee. The Water Resources Department (WRD), Government of Andhra Pradesh and Polavaram Project Authority has made repeated requests to both the States for conducting public hearing in the affected areas of their respective States as per EIA notification, 2006 and as per the directions of MoEF&CC, however, public hearing is not yet held in Odisha & Chhattisgarh.

(e) Polavaram irrigation project is being taken up as per the interstate agreement between the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (now Chhattisgarh) & Odisha dated 02.04.1980, and also as per the provisions of Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal (GWDT) Award, 1980 and as per these, Odisha can exercise option either for protective embankments with adequate drainage arrangements to protect the lands and properties likely to be affected above RL+150 ft in their territories or for compensation (rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced people from the affected villages) for the areas and properties going to be affected on the same pattern as below +150 ft, at the project cost. Further, provision for construction of protective embankment with suitable drainage arrangements for total length of 30.20 km (12 km along Sileru River and 18.20 km along Sabari River) in Malkangiri District of Odisha has been kept in the project.
