

Polavaram Irrigation Project

2068. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared Polavaram Irrigation Project as a National Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received the revised DPR of the project and is also considering to reimburse the expenditure incurred forthwith to the Andhra Pradesh Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP) has been declared as National Project under Section 90 of Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act, 2014.

(c) to (e) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted the updated second Revised Cost Estimates of Polavaram Irrigation Project amounting to ₹ 57941 crore at 2013-14 Price Level to Central Water Commission (CWC) during January, 2018. The same was examined, and subsequently set of observations primarily related to variation in cost of Land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement; change in design parameters of Left and right main canal; and increase in quantities pertaining to Head-works were communicated to the project authorities at different points of time. Latest comments of Central Electricity Authority (CEA)/CWC have been communicated to the Project Authority *vide* letters dated 17.12.2018/19.12.2018. The approval of revised estimates is dependent upon satisfactory compliances by the State Government on the observations of CWC/CEA.

The Government of India is reimbursing the expenditure incurred by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on the Polavaram Irrigation Project after declaration of this project as National Project on 01.04.2014. The balance cost of irrigation component of the project was ₹ 7158.53 crore as on 1.4.2014 as per the presently approved cost of the project. Thereafter, Central Assistance (CA) of ₹ 6764.16 crore has been released from time to time as per eligible proposals recommended by Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) and Central Water Commission (CWC). Prior to 01.04.2014, CA of ₹ 562.47 crore was provided to the project under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).

Further, a proposal for release of ₹ 393.51 crore was forwarded by PPA/CWC for reimbursement which was referred to Ministry of Finance. Ministry of Finance *vide* its letter dated 26th July, 2018 has sought certain clarifications primarily on two major issues:— (i) Audited Statement of Expenditure incurred by the State on the project till 31.03.2014, and (ii) Status of Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of the project at 2013-14 Price Level. The State Government has not submitted the Audited Statement in this regard.

Further, release of funds is dependent upon compliance by the State Government on the observations of Ministry of Finance.

Problem of water scarcity in country

2069. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) by the NITI Aayog has indicated that nearly 600 million people face high to extreme water stress in the country and also predicted that a persistent water crisis will lead to an eventual six per cent loss in the country's Gross Domestic Product by 2030;

(b) if so, Government's views and reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government is considering to mandate all power producers to report its water consumption on a daily-basis, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) details of steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle water crisis in the country on a priority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) The report titled "Composite Water Management Index", published by NITI Aayog in June, 2018, mentions that nearly 600 million people face high to extreme water stress in the country and also predicted that a persistent water crisis will lead to an eventual six per cent loss in the country's Gross Domestic Product by 2030. In this regard, NITI Aayog has referred to the reports by World Resource Institute and Mckinsey Institute.

The average annual water potential in the country has been assessed as 1869 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM). Due to topographical and other factors, the utilizable water availability is limited to 1137 BCM per annum, comprising of 690 BCM of surface water and 447 BCM of replenishable ground water. Further, National