

Regarding Polavaram Multi-purpose Project-Laid

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Polvaram Multi-purpose Project on river Godavari is a cause of dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh. Central Water Commission had approved this Project for a design of 36 Lakh cusec in 1979. Accordingly, agreement between States of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha was made. But subsequently it was raised to 50 lakh cusec in 2006. This was objected by the Government of Odisha and in 2007 the matter was raised in Supreme Court of India. No provision of environmental clearance was taken in the purview of increase in the Dam capacity from 36 to 50 lakh cusec. Environment clearance was given without conducting public hearing in Odisha and Chhattisgarh as the backwater will inundate large tracts of land adjacent to river Sabari and Sileru. Hon?ble Apex Court nominated Expert, Mr. M. Gopalkrishnan in June 2011 to submit a report on the problem of backwater. In 1.9.2023, Mr. Subramaniam, Sr. Advocate advised to conduct a backwater study by a reputed agency which was later done by NIT, Rourkela. They submitted the final Backwater Report of Polvaram Dam on 12.2.2024. The findings of the Report is found to be consistent with the claims of Odisha. Despite the matter being heard in the highest court of the country, Union Government is going ahead with the construction of the Polvaram Dam Project. When the matter is sub-judice and the issue of backwater problem has not been sorted out, I would urge the Government to intervene and settle the matter in an amicable way and help the Scheduled Tribe people of Malkangiri of Odisha from repeated floods.