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Title : Inter-State water dispute between Orissa and Andhra Pradesh on Polavaram Irrigation Project.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Andhra Pradesh Government is constructing a multi-purpose project across river Godavari near Polavaram in the West Godavari district. Orissa Government has objected to the construction of the project. The concerns of Orissa is genuine because the 150 feet high dam will submerge several villages and agricultural lands in Orissa, and displace thousands of tribal families on the other side. Andhra Pradesh Government itself says that the reservoir will submerge 588 hectares of land and will displace 6,316 families. This is not a small number. Andhra Pradesh Government says payment of compensation will not be a problem, Government of Orissa says it is. Malkangiri district of Orissa, which is adjacent to Andhra Pradesh, is inhabited mainly by tribals. It has been affected by Left-wing extremists. Submergence of tribal villages, due to construction of this proposed project will worsen the situation in this deprived region. In 1978, Government of Orissa had agreed to the construction of Polavaram project with a condition. And that condition was that the maximum height of this dam can go up to 150 feet due to all effect, including backwater effect[R77].

During the inter-State meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1997, Andhra Pradesh Government intimated that the water level could go up to 182 feet. This is the inter-State dispute. That is why, I am raising it so that I can get the response from the Government. It is between two different States. If I am not allowed to say, I will again raise it tomorrow. I want to raise it deliberately so that the Government should take cognizance of it. It is not a matter to be decided by either the Andhra Pradesh Government or the Orissa Government. The Central Government has to intervene in this matter. That is my point which I want to mention. As a result, seven villages in Orissa are going to be affected because of the back water. The major point is that the leader of the CPM of Andhra Pradesh, if I am allowed to take the name of the State Secretary of CPMâ€¦*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not mention the name.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : The State Secretary of CPM in Andhra Pradesh in his statement has said that he is coming with a delegation to meet the Prime Minister to apprise him of the situation. He is opposed to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a very senior Member. Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB : I can only say that the Andhra Pradesh Government is yet to provide technical details to the Orissa Government. My demand is let the Centre intervene in the matter and ask the Andhra Pradesh Government to give the technical details to the Orissa Government. We can sit down and discuss. We do not want any back water to cause submergence.