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Title: Construction of Polavaram Irrigation Project by Andhra Pradesh without following statutory requirements.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, this issue concerns the Ministry of Water Resources. It is reported that the Government has recommended to the Planning Commission for approval of the Polavaram project to be declared as a national project in response to a request made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. It would be unfortunate if the report is true, especially when a number of cases are pending for adjudication before the Supreme Court of India. We have already raised this issue in this House time and again that a large number of villages are going to be submerged in Orissa because of this project. A large number of families belonging to Scheduled Tribes will be affected due to construction of this project.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, kindly take your seats.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : No public hearing has been done in Orissa which is a mandatory requirement for getting environment clearance. I am yet to know how the Andhra Pradesh has gone ahead with the construction of the project without this. The Central Water Commission, in January 2009, in its TAC meeting has cleared the project without even inviting the State Government of Orissa. The CWC has endorsed the construction of about 30 kms. of embankment. We do not want to dispute what the CWC has done.

But my concern is that the State Government of Orissa should have been invited and should have been heard. That has not been done, which was earlier agreed upon by the Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal in its final order. The Tribunal had advised the CWC to take up the design and operation of the project only with the acceptance of the co-basin States. The co-basin States are Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Orissa as Godavari is a riparian river.

The third point which I would like to mention here is that the project was originally designed for a spillway capacity of 36 cusecs, whereas the design has been revised upto 50 cusecs. This will cause submergence of large areas of Orissa and cause flood in Malkangiri district. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Large areas of coal fields are there in that area. Different other mines are also there. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB : My request to the Central Government is that it can call a meeting. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair. Please conclude. I think you have made all your points.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Madam Speaker, my last point here is that number of cases have been filed in different courts. My request to the Government is that it should not become a party in that. When there is a dispute between two States, the Central Government should not become a party in that dispute. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude. Please do not make it a discussion.

...(*Interruptions*)

**अध्यक्ष महोदया :** श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार।

â€¦(व्यवधान)

SHRI B. MAHTAB : The cases relating to environment clearance and the Forest Conservation Act are pending.

**अध्यक्ष महोदया :** श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार जो बोलेंगे, वही रिकार्ड में जाएगा।

(*Interruptions*) â€¦\*

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Since the construction of the project has been challenged in various courts for violation of statutory requirement, I would request the Government of India not to declare it as a national project.

\* Not recorded.