

Environment Clearance to Power Projects

*163. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI A. SIDDARAJU :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are several power projects awaiting the environmental clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the period for which these are pending for clearance; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in according permission and the likely time by which these are to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) Ten Thermal and four Hydel Power Projects are awaiting environmental clearance.

(b) List of pending Thermal and Hydel Power Projects is as follows :—

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Pending Since
1	2	3

I. Thermal Power Projects :**Andhra Pradesh**

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------|
| 1. | 330 MW Naphtha Based Combined Cycle Project at Peddapuram, A.P. by M/s Gautami Power Ltd. | November 1997 |
| 2. | 220 MW CCPP at Samalkot East Godavari, A.P. by M/s Snehilata Power Ltd. | December, 1997 |

Bihar

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 3. | Maithon Right Bank TPS (4x250 MW) of Damodar Valley Corpn. at River Barker in Nirsacum-Chirakanunda CD Bank of Dhanbad. | June, 1997 |
|----|---|------------|

Delhi

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| 4. | 300 MW Coal based TPP at Narela, Delhi by M/s Appollo Energy Co. Ltd. | April, 1997 |
|----|---|-------------|

1	2	3
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Karnataka

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 5. | 4x250 MW Mysore TPS at Chamalpur, Mysore Distt. by M/s Mysore Power Gen. Ltd. | August, 1997 |
| 6. | 110 MW CCPP at Vijayhalli near Bangalore by M/s. Putakeshi Power Company | December, 1997 |
| 7. | 170 MW CCPP at Tanir Bavi Distt. Dakshina Kanada near Mangalore by M/s. Tanir Bavi Power Company | April, 1997 |

Rajasthan

- | | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 8. | 650 MW Arta Gas based CCPP Stage-II of Arta Distt. Saran Rajasthan by NTPC | December, 1997 |
|----|--|----------------|

Uttar Pradesh

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------|
| 9. | 2x400 MW Jawaharpur Thermal Power Station in Etah Distt., U.P. by M/s Pacific Electric Power Devp. Corp. | September, 1995 |
| 10. | 650 MW CCPP Stage-II at Auriya Distt., U.P. by N.T.P.C. | January, 1998 |

II. Hydel Projects**Himachal Pradesh**

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1. | Dhamwari Sunda Hydro Electric Project (2x35 MW) | January, 1998 |
| 2. | Malshej Ghat Pumped Storage Scheme (600 MW) Maharashtra Krishna Valley Devp. Corp., Pune | May, 1998 |

Sikkim

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------|
| 3. | Teesta H.E. Project Stage V, National Hydro Electric Power Corp. (510 MW) | March, 1998 |
|----|---|-------------|

Tamilnadu

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 4. | Moyar Ultimate Stage Hydro Electric Project TNEB (50 MW) | Noven.ber, 1996 |
|----|--|-----------------|

(c) A final decision is usually taken within ninety days of receipt of complete information from project authorities. However, the projects detailed above are pending for clearance due to reasons which *inter alia* include :

- Project are recently received.
- Supplementary information has been recently received.
- Additional data on risk analysis, air pollution are yet to be submitted by the promoters.
- Change in scope of the project.
- Comments from Chief Wildlife Warden are awaited.

Establishment of Benches of High Courts

*164. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the present policy of the Government in the matter of establishment of new benches of the High Courts;

(b) the manner in which Government propose to make justice available at the door-steps of the litigants without establishing more High Court benches;

(c) whether any proposal to amend S. 51(2) the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 is pending consideration of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b): The present policy of the Government of India is to consider the question of establishment of a High Court Bench in the light of broad principles and criteria recommended by the Jaswant Singh Commission, after a proposal has been received from the concerned State Government, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Forests

*168. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the development of forests in the country;

(b) the amount incurred so far thereon; and

(c) the States where the percentages of forest area is still very small and forests are depleting?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) A sum of about Rs. 7,000 crores has been spent on conservation and development of forests till the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(c) As per the State of Forest Report, 1997, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan have forest cover less than 10% of their respective geographical area. Decline in forest cover during the period 1993 to 1995 has been noticed in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Orissa.

Statement

Development of Forests

1. The subject "Forests" was moved from the state list to concurrent list by the Constitution (42nd amendment) Act, 1976.

2. Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to regulate indiscriminate diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes. As a result, average annual rate of diversion has come down from around 1.43 million ha. to less than 26,000 ha.

3. National Forest Policy, 1952 was revised in the year 1988. It envisages maintenance of environmental stability and restoration of ecological balance; preservation of natural forests including biological diversity and genetic resources; association of local people in protection and development of forests; and to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forests/tree cover through massive afforestation programme.

4. Ministry has issued guidelines on 1.6.1990 for promoting involvement of village communities in the protection and regeneration of degraded forests. Until now, 20 states have issued Joint Forest Management resolutions and it is estimated that around 20,000 Forest Protection Communities are involved in the protection and regeneration of about 2 million ha. of degraded forest land.

5. About 28 million ha. has been brought under afforestation so far under various schemes. As per latest