

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:390

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

PENDING SCHEMES/PROJECTS

Dashmuni Deepa ;Namdhari Shri Inder Singh;Semmalai Shri S.

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

(a) whether several schemes/projects of hydro electricity, road construction, cement, iron and steel of public and private sector are pending owing to stringent environmental and forest enactments in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes/projects alongwith their period of pendency, State-wise; and

(c) the effective measures/steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) There are always some projects at certain processing stage with the Government of India/State Governments under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The cause of pendency may not be only stringent environmental and forest enactments in the country. At the moment, there are 546 projects pertaining to hydro electricity, road construction, cement, iron and steel with the State Governments and the Central Government, of which 103 are with the Central Government and 443 are with various State Governments. Out of 103 proposals with the Central Government, 47 are less than two months old, as these were received during the two months of 2010. The State-wise summary of such schemes/projects is enclosed as Annexure.

(c) The Central Government has taken the following measures/steps to expedite the examination of the proposals for use of forest land for non-forest purposes and to reduce the delay under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980:

(i) Streamlining of procedure of processing of diversion proposals by delegating powers to the Regional offices of the Ministry up to 5 hectares except mining and encroachments.

(ii) Proposals involving forest land from 5 to 40 hectares are to be processed by the Regional offices and submit the same along with comments for the consideration of the Minister (Environment & Forests).

(iii) Proposals involving forest land more than 40 hectares are to be dealt with in the Ministry itself after the same is forwarded by the Regional offices of the Ministry.

(iv) For proposals involving Protected Areas, necessary guidelines have been issued. These proposals are required to be discussed in the State Wildlife Board followed by the National Wildlife Board and finally they have to seek clearance from the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

(v) Guidelines have been issued indicating the time line for taking final decision on the diversion proposals so that the pendency could be taken care of.