

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1353  
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS REGARDING HYDRO POWER PROJECTS  
Ramasubbu Shri S.

**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the construction of dams for hydro power projects for power generation in the country has been opposed by the environmentalists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to address these environmental concerns while setting up of hydro power projects in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) to (c): There has been some representation regarding the construction of dams due to the perceived problems relating to submergence, rehabilitation & resettlement issues (mainly on account of lack of adequate compensation) and likely impact in the down-stream areas due to either reduction in flows or irregular flows.

The environmental concerns and other aspects, involved in construction of hydro electric power projects are being looked after by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) at the time of environmental clearance. Revised Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification was issued by the MoEF in September, 2006. As per the above Notification, EIA studies for the projects are required to be carried out by the project proponents as per the guidelines of the MoEF. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for EIA studies of any project have to be got approved by the project proponent from the MoEF at the Scoping Stage.

As per the ToR framed by MoEF for preparation of EIA Reports for hydro electric projects, the study area shall include the catchment area, the submergence area and the project area to be acquired for various projects appurtenances, area within ten km. from main project components i.e. dam, power house etc. EIA study shall also include assessment of downstream impact on water, land and human environment due to drawing up of the river in the stretch between dam site and power house site. The hydro electric projects are taken up for construction only after the same are given necessary clearance, by the MoEF.