GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4594
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010
DIVERSION OF RIVER WATER FOR POWER GENERATION
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the massive diversion of river water for power generation has threatened life and habitation in the rivers, basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether while granting permission for the construction of power projects the Government has considered this aspect;

(d) if so, the reasons for granting permission to divert river water for power generation; and

(e) if not, the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) : All aspects relating to impact of development of hydro projects on the life and habitation in the rivers` basin including impact of diversion of river water on the downstream areas either due to reduction in flows or irregular flows are being looked after by Ministry of environment & Forests (MoEF) at the time of according environment clearance and the hydro projects are taken up for construction only after the same are given necessary clearance by MoEF. As per the revised Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification issued in September, 2006, EIA study for the projects are required to be carried out by the project proponents as per the guidelines of MoEF and Terms of Reference (ToR) for EIA study of any project have to be got approved by the project proponent from MoEF at the Scoping Stage.

As per 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.