

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:637
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS
Namdhari Shri Inder Singh

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

- (a) whether the completion of several irrigational dams in the country is blocked due to the objections raised by his Ministry;
- (b) if so, whether his Ministry is contemplating to find a package solution of this lengthy problem by rationalizing the forest policy in the interest of the public at large; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The proposals received from the State/UT Governments including those of Irrigation dams seeking approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are processed on case specific merit. The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), a statutory committee constituted under Section 3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, examines all probable pros and cons of the project keeping particularly in view the likely impact of the proposal on ecology, hydrology of the areas and also the over all economy of the people living both in the area proposed for diversion as well as in the surrounding areas. As such environmentally sound projects are recommended by the FAC and approved by the Government. Therefore, Ministry is not considering any change in the forest policy.