

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1731
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS
Ray Shri Rudramadhab

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Uttarakhand proposes to construct several hydro electric projects across the river Ganges and its tributaries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Forest Advisory Committee has decided not to give forest clearance for these projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the final decision taken by the Union Government on the construction of these dams and its consequences on the environment and the people of the State?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Details of the hydro electric projects constructed/proposed to be constructed across river Ganges and its tributaries are annexed.

(c) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 20.02.2009 directed that the re-constituted Forest Advisory Committee shall review its earlier decision on the proposals submitted by the Government of Uttarakhand for diversion of 258.737 ha forest land for Kotlibhel hydro electric project (Stage -1A) and 496.793 ha forest land for Kotlibhel hydro electric project (Stage- 1B), in favour of the National Hydro Power Corporation and take a fresh decision after considering recommendation of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC). The recommendation of the CEC referred to in the said Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is as below: "the CEC is of the view that it would be prudent that the reconstituted FAC reviews these projects after considering the findings of the studies regarding(a) cumulative environmental impact of various hydro electric projects particularly on the riverine eco system and land and aquatic biodiversity; and(b)effectiveness of the mitigative measures and compliance of the stipulated conditions on which various projects have earlier been cleared."The cumulative impact study on the environmental aspects of the projects has been awarded to the Alternate Hydro Energy Centre (AHEC), IIT Roorkee for assessment of the cumulative impact of hydro power projects in Bhagirathi and Alaknanda Basins. Similarly, a study on cumulative environmental impact of various hydro electric projects on the riverine eco system, in general, and terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, in particular, along with a review of the effectiveness of the mitigative measures and compliance of the stipulated conditions on which various projects have earlier been cleared, has been assigned to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. On receipt of the reports of these studies along with recommendations of the Forest Advisory Committee thereon, the Union Government will take appropriate decision on the proposals seeking diversion of forest land for construction of dams and hydroelectric projects on the river Ganges and its tributaries.