

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2819
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
BAN ON CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS
Guddu Shri Premchandra;Saroj Shri Tufani

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

- (a) whether the Government has put a ban on the construction of some of the dams in the country including Maheshwar dam in Madhya Pradesh and thermoelectric project at Raigarh district in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the environmental impact assessment of the said dams had been conducted;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to lift the ban on construction of the said dams; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b)The construction work of the Maheshwar Hydel project in Madhya Pradesh is suspended as the implementation of environmental safeguard measures including R&R was not undertaken pari-passu with the construction work. The work on Loharinag Pala Hydro Electric Project in Uttarakhand has been suspended due to environmental and cultural factors as also the public opposition. . No thermal power project in Raigarh district, Chhattisgarh is stopped on environmental grounds.

(c)&(d)The Maheshwar Hydel Project in Madhya pradesh was accorded the environmental clearance in May 1994 based on the Environmental Management Plans submitted by project proponents. The Environment Impact Assessment report for Loharinag-Pala Hydro Electric Project, which contained catchment area treatment plan, health delivery system, biodiversity management, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Plan etc. was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee and the environmental clearance was granted in February, 2005.

(e)&(f)The lifting of the suspension order regarding on construction of Maheshwar Hydroelectric projects could be considered on receipt of satisfactory compliance report on R&R and other environmental issues from project proponents. In respect of Loharinag-Pala Hydro Electric Project, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Finance Minister, Government of India is examining the implications of discontinuing the Project.