

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2918  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010  
CLEARANCE TO IRRIGATION PROJECTS  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Deshmukh Shri K. D.

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

- (a) whether several irrigation projects are pending for environmental and forestry clearance in the country including those in naxal affected areas of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government for early clearance of these projects;
- (d) whether the Government has recently rejected some of the irrigation projects;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to give relaxation to the States where forest cover is more than 33%; and
- (g) 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) A total of 207 irrigation project proposals are pending, 3 for environmental clearance and 204 involving clearance for diversion of forest land . While no irrigation project of Madhya Pradesh is pending for environmental clearance, 30 irrigation projects of the State are pending clearance for diversion of forest land.
- (b) The projects are pending mainly due to non-submission of requisite information by the project proponents/ State Governments. The State wise break-up of pending irrigation projects for environment clearance and clearance for diversion of forest land is Annexed.
- (c) All possible measures are taken to clear the proposals for diversion of forest land as expeditiously as possible. As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, the decision on proposal for environmental clearances are taken within 105 days from the receipt of the complete information.
- (d) & (e) No irrigation project has been rejected for environmental clearance. A proposal seeking diversion of 181.12 ha forest land for construction of Pendhari Nalla Project in Nagpur District of Maharashtra has been rejected by the Central Government as the forest area required for execution of the said project has good forest cover and also is an ideal habitat for wildlife.
- (f) No, Sir.
- (g) Does not arise, in view of the reply to part (f) above.