

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2957
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011
NEW BARRAGE PROJECTS
Mahant Dr. Charan Das

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

- (a) the cut-off mark in respect of river valley irrigation projects with regard to which from the Ministry is mandatory;
- (b) the number of new barrage projects at Mahanadi of Chhattisgarh approved by the Department of Water Resources of the State Government alongwith the cost of each project;
- (c) whether prior approval has been obtained from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, before the construction of the said barrages with reference;
- (d) if so, the names of the barrages approved; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to issue orders to stop the constructions of such projects which have not been approved?

Answer

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

- (a) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 mandates prior environmental clearance to various developmental projects including River Valley projects as per following:
 - i. Category-A at Central level for culturable command area of more than 10,000 hectares and Hydroelectric projects of capacity more than 50 MW.
 - ii. Category-B at State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for projects less than 10,000 hectares culturable command area and Hydroelectric projects of capacity of 25 MW to 50 MW.
- (b) Six number of new barrage projects at Mahanadi River of Chhattisgarh have been approved by the State Government of Chhattisgarh.
- (c) & (d) The Water Resources Department, Government of Chhattisgarh needs to obtain environmental clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its amendment of 2009.
- (f) No such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry.