

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2228

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO COAL PROJECTS

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether non-clearance to some of the coal projects by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and some other factors have resulted in shortage of coal in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;
- (c) whether any discussions have been held between his Ministry and the Ministry of Environment and Forests regarding re-classifying of coal bearing areas under forest areas;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the details of pending coal projects with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for environmental and forest clearance, project-wise and coal subsidiary-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the clearance?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Meetings/discussions are regularly held between Ministry of Environment and Forests and this Ministry to expedite Environmental and Forestry Clearances. This is a continuous process. Other issues are like Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R), land acquisition, law and order etc are also taken up regularly for resolution with appropriate authorities.

(c) & (d): The issue of providing move of coal bearing areas under forest cover for coal mining is under deliberation at the highest level by a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted for the purpose by the Government.

(e): The details of pending coal projects with MoEF are as under:

(i) Pending Stage –I and Stage-II forestry proposals:

Stage-I	No. of projects pending at MoEF	No. of projects pending at State Level	Stage-II	No. of projects pending at MoEF	No. of projects pending at State Level
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Sl	Subsidiaries	Projects MoEF/State	Projects MoEF/State
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1.	Eastern Coalfields Limited	3	(1) MoEF
		(2) State	1 (1) State

2.	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	1	(1) MoEF
		2	(2) State

3.	Central Coalfields Limited	14	(4) MoEF
		(10) State	11 (7) MoEF
		(4) State	

4. Northern Coalfields Limited 1 (1) State 1 (1) MoEF

5. Western Coalfields Limited 27 (5) MoEF
(22) State 6 (6) State

6. Saurashtra Eastern Coalfields 47 (9) MoEF 33 (11) MoEF
Limited (38) State (22) State

7 Mahanadi Coalfields Limited 16 (16) State

8. North Eastern Coalfields 7 (7) State

(ii) Pending for Environmental Clearances

S1 Total No. of Projects pending for
projects

1. 14 Terms of Reference (TOR)

2. 25 Public Hearing (PH)

3. 8 Environmental Appraisals Committee (EAC)

4. 20 Environment Clearance

(f): The following steps have been taken to expedite the clearances:

i) Vigorous follow up action with land acquisition officials of State Govts. to expedite acquisition proceedings.

ii) Forest Officials are contacted on regular basis at District & Tehsil level to fulfil the requirement & queries.

iii) Periodical contacts are done with the Regional Office of MOEF/ MOEF, New Delhi for expediting clearance of the environmental & forestry proposals.

iv) Discussions are held with the land owners/ villagers for selection of rehabilitation site and also to persuade them to shift to the rehabilitation site.

v) State authorities are apprised regularly for resolving law and order issues.