

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5705

ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011

CLEARANCE TO COAL PROJECTS

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the coal production has been declining on account of delay in according environmental clearance for mining of coal;
- (b) if so, the remedial measures being taken in this regard;
- (c) the total number of coal mining projects delayed on account of environmental clearance; and
- (d) the number of pending coal mining projects which have not been granted clearance by the State Governments, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): Ministry of Environment and Forests had been requested to expedite clearance of forest/environment proposals. They had been requested to lift restrictions imposed on the ground of Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) in 7 coalfields. They have also been requested not to recommend or reject proposals of Coal Blocks on the basis of Go & No Go policy as it is not backed by any law or circular of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). These issues were discussed at various levels between this Ministry and the MoEF. However, no acceptable solution could be found and it was decided to place the matter before the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI). After consideration, the CCI has referred the matter to a Group of Ministers (GoM) for examination. The GoM has held four meetings (17/02/2011, 07/04/2011, 09/06/2011 and 02/08/2011) in this connection.

(c): 17 coal projects have been affected due to imposition of moratorium in areas having CEPI above 70, during 2010-11.

(d): As on date, 50 projects/proposals for Environmental Clearance are awaiting approval at different stages which include 23 at State level and 27 at MoEF level. The details of State level pendency are as under:

State Number of Projects

Chattisgarh	04
Jharkhand	03
Maharashtra	11
Madhya Pradesh	02
Orissa	01
West Bengal	02

Total 23