

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2236

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2011

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO COAL MINING PROJECTS

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether environment and forest clearance is mandatory before undertaking coal mining work;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of proposals submitted by Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiary companies for environment and forest clearance during the last three years and the current year, subsidiary-wise, year-wise and State-wise?
- (d) the number of proposals cleared during the said period, subsidiary-wise, year-wise and State-wise and the number of proposals still pending alongwith the reasons for pendency; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite clearance of the pending proposals and also to streamline the procedure of clearance for speedy implementation of coal mining projects?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Environmental Clearance (EC) is mandatory for taking up any new or expansion project as per MoEF notification SO. 1533 dated 14-09-2006. The Forestry Clearance (FC) is also mandatory under Forest Conservation Act 1980, for use of any forest land or part thereof for any non forest purposes.

(c): (i) The details of 53 EC proposals initiated during the last three years & current year subsidiary-wise, year-wise and State-wise, are as under.

SL YEAR ECL BCCL CCL NCL WCL SECL MCL NEC

WB JH JH MP UP MS MP CG OR AS

1	2008-09	3	2	6	2	2	3	2
2	2009-10	1	4	4	2	2		
3	2010-11	1		4	3			
4	2011-12	3	1	2	2	3	1	

(ii) 177 forestry proposals are awaiting clearance at State & MoEF levels. The details of the same, subsidiary wise, state wise are given below:

COMPANY	STATE	NO.OF STAGE I PROPOSALS	NO.OF STAGE II PROPOSALS	TOTAL
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ECL	JH	3	1	4
BCCL	JH	3	2	5
CCL	JH	23	9	32
NCL	MP	2		2

WCL	MP	18	4	22
	MH	12	1	13

SECL CG 30 24 54
MP 15 8 23

MCL OR 13 1 14
NEC AS 8 8

(d): (i) The details of environmental clearance proposals cleared during the said period are given below:

SL YEAR ECL CCL NCL WCL SECL MCL NEC

WB JH JH MP UP MS MP CG MP OR AS

1	2008-09	8	3	1	1	4	5	2	1
2	2009-10	1	1	3	1	8	1	12	
3	2010-11	1	5	8	1	8	1		
4	2011-12		1	2					

(ii) The details of forestry clearance proposals cleared (Stage II) during the said period are given below:

SL YEAR ECL CCL NCL WCL SECL MCL NEC

WB JH JH MP UP MS MP CG MP OR AS

1	2008-09	1	17	1	1	2	4	1
2	2009-10	2	3	1	3			
3	2010-11	5	1	1	1			
4	2011-12	-	2	1				

Forestry clearance proposals are suffering because of procedural methods involving several stages which in turn cause delays in release of forest land. In addition, delays are also experienced in getting NOC involved under FR Act. There is also delay due to ownership dispute between the Revenue Authority and the Forest Department & delay in granting in Stage-II clearance even after completion of all formalities. In case of Environmental clearance TOR (Terms of Reference) is not received as per schedule. Delay is also observed in holding public hearing/consultation. Delay due to clubbing of environmental clearance with forestry clearance (Stage-I) is also affecting the EC clearance adversely.

(e): The coal related issues are addressed both at State level and Central level by the Ministry of Coal and coal companies on regular basis. Ministry of Coal has taken up the issues for consideration at the highest level for obtaining solutions and for fast tracking of Environment Clearances (EC) & Forest Clearances (FC), land acquisitions, R&R, law and order issues at State and Central levels on a continuous basis.