

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:342
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES TO POWER PROJECTS
Biju Shri P. K.;Maharaj Shri Satpal

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

- (a) whether a large number of power projects are awaiting environment and forest clearances;
- (b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the power projects cleared and those rejected during the last three years, State-wise and project-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the pendency along with the period since when they are pending, project-wise; and
- (d) the time by which the pending projects are likely to be cleared?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 342 REGARDING "ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES TO POWER PROJECTS" ASKED BY SHRI P.K. BIJU AND SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ FOR ANSWER ON 30.04.2012.

(a) & (b) A total of 41 power projects for environmental clearance and 48 power projects requiring diversion of forest land are pending in the Ministry. The details are given in Annexure-1.

A total of 165 power projects were granted environmental clearance and 143 power projects were granted forest clearance during the last three years. The details are given at Annexure-2. A total of 2 power projects were rejected for environmental clearances and 3 power projects were rejected for forest clearance during the last three years. The status is given at Annexure-3.

(c) The main reasons for pendency are delay in submission of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report and Environment Management Plan (EMP) including public hearing report, deficiency in the EIA/EMP reports inadequate data, non-submission of complete information by the project proponents.

(d) The Ministry has taken various steps to facilitate timely decision on the projects by constituting sector specific Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs) including EAC for appraisal of thermal, hydro and nuclear power projects, regular meeting of the EACs, preparation of sector specific technical guidance manuals which are posted on the Ministry's website to prepare EIA reports addressing all the related issues. The EIA Notification, 2006 prescribes a time limit of 105 days from the day of receipt of complete information for according environmental clearance. As and when complete information is submitted by the project proponent, the proposal is considered for environmental clearance.