

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7095
ANSWERED ON:18.05.2012
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR HYDROPOWER PROJECTS
Tanwar Shri Ashok

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether out of 13 hydel powerprojects proposed on the Basin of LohitRiver, only the first project at lowerDemure has so far got clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether his Ministry has takennotice of any sacred place likely to besubmerged due to the project which wasnot mentioned in the EnvironmentallImpactAssessment report;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not,the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether his Ministry is facingproblem in obtaining environmentalclearance for the remaining projects; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwiththe reasons therefor and thecorrectivemeasures taken by the Government in thisregard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b): Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has informed that ten hydroelectric projects with aggregate capacity of 7221 MW (having IC above 25 MW) have been allotted by the State Government in Lohit River Basin. Out of these, Lower Demwe Hydro-electric Project (1750 MW) has been accorded Environmental Clearance and in-principle Forest Clearance by Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) on 12.2.2010 and 1.3.2012 respectively.

(c) & (d): Certain representations have been received wherein it has been pointed out that ParsuramKund, an important cultural heritage site, is likely to be affected by Lower Demwe Hydro-electric Project (HEP). In this regard, Government of Arunachal Pradesh has informed that this issue was known to Government agencies as well as NGOs etc. and the same was considered and deliberated upon during the public hearing also. Considering all the aspects of the project, vis-À-vis ParsuramKund, Environmental Clearance was issued laying down specific conditions addressing like, the impact on ParsuramKund release of 35 cumecs of water downstream to maintain the needs at ParsuramKund, release of normal lean season flow for a period of 7 days during Mela period in ParsuramKund in the month of January, financial allocation of about Rs.10 crore for protection of ParsuramKund, etc.

(e) & (f): MoEF considers the proposals of HEPs for Environmental Clearances, on case to case basis as per the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. Project Developers are pursuing the matter at the appropriate level to get the clearances expedited. The Ministry of Power is also regularly reviewing the status of Environment and Forest Clearances for power project and is taking up the matter with the MoEF on a regular basis for expeditious clearance.