

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1068

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

PENDING CASES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

Namdhari Shri Inder Singh;Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Wankhede Shri Subhash Bapurao

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

- (a) the details of the various projects/proposals pending with the Union Government for want of environmental and forestry clearance, State-wise;
- (b) the period of their pendency alongwith the reasons, project-wise;
- (c) the time by which these projects/proposals are likely to be cleared; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for speedy clearance of these projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) A total 186 projects are pending for environmental clearance and 204 projects are pending for Forestry clearance in the Ministry as on 20.11.2009. A table showing Statewise details of projects pending for environmental and forestry clearance, is annexed.

(c) In case of the environment clearances, the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of September 2006 stipulates a time limit of 60 days for conveying the Terms of Reference to the applicant on receipt of application with all necessary documents. Further, a time limit of 105 days, after the receipt of the complete application with all necessary documents, has been provided for the appraisal and conveying the decision. In case of the forestry clearances, under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Rules 2003, the projects, after the concerned Forest Advisory Committees recommendation, are granted /refused clearance within 60 days of its advise.

(d) The Ministry has taken several steps to reduce pendency of projects which includes constitution of State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities in 23 States and Union Territories, convening the sectoral meetings for longer duration for appraisal of projects and review of pendency at regular interval. Similarly, to expedite forestry clearance, ministry has accorded general approval to Government Departments for carrying out certain specified activities where forest land involved is less than 1.00 ha, powers have been delegated to the Regional Offices to accord clearance up to 5.0 ha except mining and encroachment and prospecting guidelines have been relaxed from 1 borehole per 10 sq.Km to 20-25 boreholes per 10 Sq. Km for metallic ores & 15 -20 boreholes for Coal & Lignite.