

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:623

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012

CLEARANCES TO POWER PROJECTS

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

- (a) whether the Group of Ministers (GoM) had recommended environmental and forest clearances to Power Projects in the country with some riders;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the projects to whom the clearances were recommended;
- (c) whether his Ministry has imposed terms and conditions for granting clearances in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Group of Ministers (GoM) to consider the environmental and developmental issues relating to coal mining and other development projects did not recommend environment and forest clearance to Power Projects. However, the said GoM in its seventh meeting held on 30th May 2012 recommended that forest clearance be accorded to Mahan and Chhatrasal coal blocks on the conditions stipulated by an Expert Committee constituted under Chairmanship of the Addl. Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation) in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), except the condition relating to amount to be spent on CSR activities. On CSR activities, GoM deliberated and recommended that expenditure on CSR activities should meet the entire cost of rehabilitation of the project affected families.

The MoEF vide letter dated 30.10.2012 accorded stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 967.65 hectares of forest land in favour of M/s. Mahan Coal Limited for mining of coal in Mahan Coal block located in Singrauli Coalfield in Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, subject to fulfillment of the general conditions, standard conditions applicable to mining projects and the additional conditions stipulated by the GoM.

Similarly, as recommended by the GoM, stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 965.40 hectares of forest land located in Chhatrasal coal block in favour of M/s. Sasan Ultra Mega Power Project subject to fulfillment of the similar conditions has also been approved.