

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1124

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013

CLEARANCES TO PENDING PROJECTS

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

(a) the details of the proposals received from various States for environmental and forest clearances of the projects viz. Road, Mining, Power, Construction and Developmental works, etc. and pending with the Ministry for clearance, State and Union Territory-wise including Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the reasons for the pendency along with the period since when they are pending, State wise and project-wise during the said period;

(c) the number of projects cleared during each of the last three years and the current year, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/strategy proposed by the Government for an early clearance of pending projects in the country and formulation of a viable policy for clearing such proposals?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The State-wise and sector-wise details of proposals pending for environment and forest clearances are at Annexure-1 and II respectively. The reasons for pendency of environment clearances include non-submission of requisite information by the project proponents, forestry and wildlife issues, etc. The reasons for pendency of forest clearances include site inspection of cases involving more than 100 hectares forest land, incomplete proposals, seeking information from the concerned State Governments etc.

(c) The state-wise details of environment clearance and forest clearance given during each of the last three years and the current year are at Annexure III & IV, respectively.

(d) In order to facilitate an early decision on proposal for environmental clearances, various steps have been initiated by the Ministry which include

(i) continuous monitoring of the status of pending projects,

(ii) regular and longer duration meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) meeting for consideration of projects in various sectors,

(iii) streamlining of the procedure for appraisal of projects, etc. As regards expediting the forest clearances, an elaborate institutional mechanism, both at Central as well as at the State/Union Territory Government level has been set up to facilitate scrutiny of the proposals.