

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3386
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
CLEARANCES TO HYDRO POWER PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Forest Advisory Committee of the Ministry has sanctioned hydro-power projects recently in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the hydro-power projects sanctioned by the Forest Advisory Committee, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Forest Advisory Committee has made it compulsory to obtain sanction from the State Wildlife Board for some projects out of the sanctioned hydro-power projects in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of such hydro-power projects?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Forest Advisory Committee has not sanctioned any hydro power projects in the recent past nor does it have any such power. The Section 3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides for constitution of the Forest Advisory Committee to advise the Government with regards to grant of approval under Section 2 of the Act and on other matters that may be referred to it by the Government.

However, the Committee has recommended certain proposals for diversion of forest land for hydro electric projects in the recent past.

The hydroelectric projects seeking diversion of forest land from Protected Areas like National Parks, Sanctuaries and Reserves as well as those projects requiring environmental clearance and falling within eco-sensitive zone of such Protected Areas notified under Environment (Protection) Act 1986, or within 10 km radius thereof in absence such a notification, require approval from the concerned State Board for Wildlife.

The State-wise details of hydroelectric projects recommended by the Committee during last two quarters, i.e. September 2012 to March 2013, are as below:

S.No.	Name of the State	Name of the Hydel Project	Name of the concerned State Board	Whether approval for Wildlife required or not.
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1. Sikkim Teesta Stage IV Yes

2. Arunachal Pradesh Tawang II No

3. Himachal Pradesh Luhri No