

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3394

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013

EXTINCTION OF FLORA AND FAUNA

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

- (a) whether a number of species of flora and fauna are reportedly on the verge of extinction due to construction of dams on rivers Sindhu, Ganges and Brahmaputra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the impact on the forests area of the Himalayan Region due to construction of these dams; and
- (d) the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the information received from Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India, no species of flora and fauna is facing extinction specifically due to construction of dams on the rivers Sindhu, Ganges and Brahmaputra.

(c) & (d) So far, 17584.8689 ha of forest land has been permitted for diversion under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of 347 hydel projects in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Sikkim. Environment and forest clearances are accorded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests after thorough appraisal by the Expert Appraisal Committee constituted under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and Forest Advisory Committee under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The impacts on environment, ecology, wildlife as well as social impacts are assessed in the Environment Impact Assessment report and the mitigation measures for these impacts embodied in the Environment Management Plan prepared for the respective project. Central Government while according approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for construction of dams stipulates appropriate conditions to mitigate impacts of such projects on flora, fauna and forests. These conditions include compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest land diverted, maintenance of minimum ecological flow, implementation of wildlife conservation plan, installation of appropriate structures such as fish passes or fish ladders, fish hatcheries etc. to facilitate migration of aquatic fauna etc.