

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5343  
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013  
CLEARANCE TO HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECTS  
Dias Dr. Charles

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to consider issue of environmental clearance to hydro-electric projects proposed from Kerala in view of the acute shortage of electricity in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of hydro-electric projects proposed from Kerala which are pending for want of environmental clearance with the dates from which these projects are pending;
- (d) whether the Government is following the same criteria for all States for the clearance of projects; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 mandates prior environmental clearance to various developmental projects including hydroelectric projects. The hydroelectric projects are divided into following categories under this Notification:

- i. Category-A projects i.e. Hydroelectric Power projects of capacity more than 50 MW, to be considered at Central level.
- ii. Category-B projects i.e. Hydroelectric Power projects of capacity of 25 MW to 50 MW to be considered at State level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

The environment clearance process for projects broadly comprises of four stages, viz, Screening, Scoping, Public Consultation and Appraisal. The environment clearance process, as per the provisions under EIA Notification 2006, is followed through-out the country across all States.

No hydroelectric power project from Kerala is pending for environmental clearance in the Ministry.