

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5370
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013
CLEARANCES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF DAM
Ray Shri Saugata

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

- (a) whether the Forest Advisory Committee has given clearances for the construction of Kalu Dam in State of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted thorough survey of the area;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether forest land in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats is up for diversion due to this proposed dam; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Forest Advisory Committee in its meeting held on 3rd and 4th April, 2013 has recommended the diversion of 999.328 ha of forest land in Raigad Forest Division for drinking water supply project on Kalu River by Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation, in district Thane, Maharashtra with standard and general conditions like payment of Net Present Value (NPV), Compensatory Afforestation, minimum felling of trees as per requirement, etc. and following additional conditions:-

1. The recommendations of High Level Working Group headed by Dr K. Kasturirangan will be binding to the State Government and the User Agency. They will implement all mitigative measures suggested by the group for such type of developmental projects.
2. Penal Compensatory Afforestation will be taken by the State Government over degraded forest land equal in extent to diverted forest land in addition to Compensatory Afforestation at the cost of the User Agency.
3. A cumulative impact assessment of all drinking water projects in the region on the flora and fauna of the area will be undertaken by the State Government at the cost of the User Agency and the mitigative measures and other conditions suggested in the study will be binding on the User Agency.
4. The User Agency will abide by all conditions imposed by Regional Office, Bhopal and State Government during inspection of the project. The final approval for diversion of forest land will be considered only after compliance to all above general, standard and additional conditions.