

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1968

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013

REVIEW IN CLEARANCES OF PROJECTS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to reconsider its earlier decision about the clearance given to some of the Irrigation and Power projects;
- (b) if so, the names of the projects which would be reconsidered;
- (c) the names of the projects which are pending before the Ministry for want of clearance for more than four years and the reasons for their pendency;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to clear those projects; and
- (e) the maximum time taken by the Government for granting environment and forest clearance to a project in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Government has not decided to reconsider its earlier decision about the clearance given to Irrigation and Power projects.
 - (c) No Irrigation or Hydropower project is pending before the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) for environmental clearance for more than 4 years.
 - (d) & (e) As per Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and its amendment, in 2009, the MoEF is to consider the recommendations of the designated Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and convey its decision on the environment clearance to the applicant within forty five days of the receipt of the recommendations of the EAC. In other words, the decision is to be conveyed within one hundred and five days of the receipt of the final Environment Impact Assessment Report.
- In cases where the MoEF may disagree with the recommendations of the EAC concerned, the MoEF is to request reconsideration of the proposal by the EAC within forty five days of receipt of its recommendations. An intimation of this decision is to be simultaneously conveyed to the applicant. The EAC in turn, is to consider the observations of the MoEF and furnish its views on the same within a further period of sixty days. The decision of the MoEF after considering the views of the Expert Appraisal Committee concerned shall be final and is to be conveyed to the applicant by the MoEF within the next thirty days.