

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3322
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

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

- (a) whether the Government has given environmental clearance to the proposed Rs.900 crores Neutrino Observatory (NO) project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has asked the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to assess the ecological impact of the proposed project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the outcome of the study made by NTCA?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAI RAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. M/s. Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai has submitted a proposal on 10-09-2007 for setting up of a laboratory in the Singara village in the Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu. After the recommendation of the Expert Appraisal Committee, Ministry has issued Environmental Clearance on 16-04-2008 to the above project.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Member Secretary of NTCA visited the site on 31-10-2009 and discussed the project with the Scientists/ Officials of the Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India and PCCF, Tamil Nadu, Chief Wildlife Warden of Tamil Nadu and other officers and suggested to explore the feasibility of setting up the observatory at an alternate site like Suruliyar having the desired geological formation, rather than disturbing the critical wildlife corridor at Singara which is already under great stress. Accordingly, the Environmental Clearance issued has been revoked for Singara site.