

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:470
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013
CLEARANCES TO HYDEL POWER PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the environmental clearances for hydel power projects which are under construction are being delayed in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of pending proposals of on-going hydel power projects in the country;
- (c) the reasons for pendency of the said projects;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any steps for immediate disposal of pending proposals of the said projects; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006, as amended from time to time, hydro-electric power projects, as listed in the Schedule of the Notification, require prior environmental clearance. As on 30.11.2013, nine cases of hydro-electric power projects are pending with the Ministry of Environment & Forests for environmental clearance (EC). The reasons for pendency inter-alia include non-submission of the additional and requisite information associated with these projects by the project proponents.

(d) & (e) The improvements in systems, so as to facilitate qualitative, sustainable, holistic early decision-making in a transparent and objective manner, is a continuous process. Various steps taken by the Ministry to fast track the EC process without compromising the quality of the appraisal or the integrity of the environment include

- (i) continuous monitoring of status of pending projects,
- (ii) regular and longer duration of meeting of Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs) for consideration of projects.