

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1227
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
GUNDIA HYDRO ELECTRICAL PROJECT
Karandlaje Km. Shobha

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the environmental clearance to the Gundia Hydro Electrical Project is held up as no decision is taken on such project, pending the decision on the recommendations of the Kasturirangan High Level Working Group;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is likely to expedite approval to this project in Karnataka; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) The Ministry has constituted a High Level Working Group (HLWG) under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Member, Planning Commission for taking a view on the way forward to implement the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Report. The HLWG's report has been accepted by Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. The HLWG report does not recommend a complete ban on the construction of hydropower projects in the ecologically sensitive areas (ESA) of Western Ghats. It has however, recommended to a strike a balance between the energy need and protection of environment. The Gundia hydropower project being located in the ESA of Western Ghats, its environmental clearance needs to be considered within the observations and recommendations of HLWG report. In view of this, the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited has been requested to conduct requisite study taking into account the recommendations of Dr. K. Kasturirangan report.

(c) & (d) The Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006 lays down procedure to consider such proposals in a stipulated time frame on receipt of complete information and relevant report.