

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2800  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014  
IMPACT OF HYDRO POWER PROJECT IN HIMALAYAN REGION  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of hydro power projects sanctioned in various parts of the country during the last three years especially in the Himalayan Region;
- (b) whether his Ministry conducts any environmental impact assessment before giving sanction to projects;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the mechanism adopted to combat the adverse impact of projects after according permission; and
- (e) the steps taken to protect the biodiversity of Himalayan region?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Twenty three (23) hydro power projects have been accorded environmental clearance in the country during the last three years. All these projects are in Himalayan region.
- (b) to (d) In accordance with the procedure laid down in environment impact assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, all projects undergo broadly three stage appraisal before a decision is taken for grant of environmental clearance (EC). Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a project is carried-out by the project proponent and accordingly an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is prepared to mitigate the likely environmental impacts. Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in the Ministry appraises the above EIA and EMP documents and a final decision is taken for granting environmental clearance based on the recommendations of the EAC. The approved mitigation measures are stipulated in environmental clearance of a project for compliance both during construction as well as operation stage of a project. Compliance are monitored through Regional office of the Ministry and by State Pollution Control Boards concerned.
- (e) In order to regulate development in the fragile Himalayan region, the Central Government has notified the entire watershed of about 100 kilometers stretch of the river Bhagirathi from Gaumukh to Uttarkashi covering an area of 4179.59 square kilometers as an Eco-sensitive Zone in December, 2012