

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4251
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2014
HYDEL POWER PROJECTS ON GANGA p
Adityanath Shri Yogi

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some hydel power projects are under implementation on the holy Ganga river with Union Government's assistance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the likely impact on the local biological environment owing to the under construction or the proposed hydel power projects on the Ganga river and the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) : Presently, nine numbers of Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs) (above 25 MW) aggregating to installed capacity of 3540 MW are under various stages of implementation on the river Ganga and its tributaries under the Central Sector. Summary of these HEPs is as under:

Sl.No.	Category	Number of Projects	Capacity (MW)	Total Installed
1	Project under construction	4		2135
2	Cleared by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and yet to be taken up for construction.	4	1297	
3	Detailed Projects Reports (DPRs) under Examination	1	108	
Total				9 3540

Details of the above HEPs are given at Annex.

(c) : The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 13.8.2013, directed Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) to constitute an Expert Body (EB) to make a detailed study as to whether Hydroelectric power projects, existing and under construction, have caused environmental degradation and if so to what extent, and also whether such projects have contributed to the tragedy which occurred in the month of June, 2013 in Uttarakhand. The direction also is to examine the impact of the proposed 24 hydropower projects on the biodiversity in Alaknanda and Bhagirathi River Basins.

Accordingly, MoEF & CC constituted an Expert Body (EB) and appointed Dr. Ravi Chopra as the Chairman along with 15 other members to undertake the study as directed by Supreme Court. The Expert Body submitted its report to MoEF & CC on 16.04.2014. Two members of the committee representing the Central Water Commission (CWC) & Central Electricity Authority (CEA) submitted a separate report with divergent views. These two reports were submitted to Hon'ble Supreme Court. On 7.5.2014, Hon'ble Supreme Court directed Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change to examine both the reports and submit before Court a firm and appropriate proposal. Ministry of Environment & Forests and Climate Change has referred both these reports to a Consortium of IITs for submission of a report to Hon'ble Supreme Court.