

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3783

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014

REPORT ON HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECT

Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Government for filing comprehensive environment and ecological report of 24 hydroelectric power projects to be established on Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river basins in Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, whether the Supreme Court has also directed the Government to come with concrete proposals after scrutinizing the projects including the hydropower projects of PSUs, NTPC, NHPC and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard along with the time by which these projects are likely to be started?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.8.2013 in the SLP Civil Appeal No.6736 of 2013 (SLP (C) NO.362 of 2012) in Alaknanda Hydro Power Company Limited versus Anuj Joshi & Others, directed the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) inter alia, to constitute an Expert Body (EB) (i) 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, (ii) also whether such projects have contributed to the tragedy which occurred in the month of June, 2013 in Uttarakhand and (iii) to examine the impact of the proposed 24 hydropower projects on the biodiversity in Alaknanda and Bhagirathi River Basins as identified by WII in their report.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) had accordingly constituted an Expert Body (EB) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ravi Chopra. The Expert Body had 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) had 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 further directed Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to examine both the reports. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has referred both these reports to a Consortium of seven IITs (IITC). A copy of the report of the IITC has been submitted to Hon'ble SC.

On 9.10.2014 and 5.11.2014, Hon'ble Supreme Court again directed the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to scrutinize the hydropower projects of National Thermal Power Corporation, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation, GMR Hydro Power Ltd and Super Hydro Limited which are among the 24 HEPs as identified by WII in having serious environmental impact. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has examined these proposals and a report has been submitted to Hon'ble SC on 5.12.2014.