

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of scientists constituting the task force, their job norms and their modus operandi; and

(c) if answer to part (a) above be in negative, whether in view of the ever increasing importance of the question of environmental pollution, Government would consider the question of constituting such a scientific task force with immediate effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal of constituting a scientific task force is under consideration by the Government.

Irrigation and Hydro Electric Schemes of Kerala awaiting clearance

4158. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects for Irrigation and Hydro Electric Schemes

from Kerala awaiting clearance from Central Government;

(b) what are the dates of applications of these projects and their current position; and

(c) when they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) There is no Irrigation and Hydro Electric Project of Kerala pending for environmental clearance with the Ministry. In respect of forest clearance, a *statement* showing names of Irrigation and Hydro Electric Projects of Kerala pending under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 alongwith the date of their forwarding by State Government and present status, is annexed (*see below*).

(c) As and when complete details in respect of a proposal are received, expeditious action is taken for a final decision on the same.

Statement

Names of Irrigation and Hydro-Electric

Projects of Kerala pending under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 along with their present position.

Sl. No.	Name of the proposal ,	Date of letter vide which proposal was sent by State Government	Present position
1.	Meenavallam Micro Hydel Project.	24.10.1997	The proposal is pending with the State Government for want of essential details sought on 28.11.97 by Regional Office of the Ministry at Bangalore.
2.	Kuthungal Small Hydro-Electric Project.	19.9.19%	The proposal is pending with the State Government for want of essential details sought on 21.4.98 by Regional Office of the Ministry at Bangalore.

Sl. No.	Name of the proposal	Date of letter vide which proposal was sent by State Government	Present position
3.	Extension of lease period of forest land to State Electricity Board for setting up of disperser valve house and generator house.	9.1.1996	The proposal is pending with the State Government for want of essential details sought on 31.7.96 by Regional Office of the Ministry at Bangalore.
4.	Kuriarkutty-Karappara Multipurpose project	22.11.1994	The proposal is under process with the Central Government. Site inspection of the area involved has been carried out by two members of Forest Advisory -' Committee. After receipt of site inspection report of the Committee members, a suitable decision will be taken on the proposal.
5.	Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project.	18.3.1987	An expert committee has been constituted for indepth analysis of the project. On the recommendation of this Committee, the State Government has been asked to carry out certain studies pertaining to Environment Impact Assessment, Social Impact Assessment and social Cost Benefit Analysis. So far only the report on Social Impact Assessment has been received and the matter is pending with the State Government for want of other two study reports.

Receding Gangotri Glacier

4159. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gangotri Glacier is receding gradually, thus threatening drying up of Ganga river and the scenario worsening by unceasing pollution and large-scale deforestation; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are adopting so that 2500 Km. long course of Ganga river, Hfe-Une passing through Northern to Eastern India keeps its glory and flow intact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI):
(a) No Mass balance studies have been carried out on the Gangotri Glacier. However, Dokiraini