

(b) if so, the current status of fire; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such fire incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A red alert was issued by the State for prevention of fire in the Corbett Tiger Reserve. As informed by the State, only 1.5 hectares of the said reserve was affected by fire due to successful fire prevention and control measures.

(c) Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, funding support is being provided to the Corbett Tiger Reserve which, *Inter alia*, includes fire prevention, detection and control measures.

Environmental clearance to power projects

3227. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether power projects are facing considerable delay in securing mandatory environmental clearance from Government;

(b) if so, the details of such projects, particularly from Maharashtra;

(c) the main reasons for the delay; and

(d) the steps being taken to simplify and expedite the clearance process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. Delay occurs mainly due to non-submission of requisite information by the project proponents.

(b) and (c) No Hydro-electric project from Maharashtra is pending. However, six proposals for grant of Environment Clearance (EC) to thermal power projects have been received from Maharashtra. These are 1600 MW Thermal Power Plant (TPP) at Dhopave, 3×660 MW expansion of Koradi TPP at Koradi, 405 MW TPP at Alibag, Raigad, 1600 MW TPP at Dherand, Raigad, 2×300 MW TTPP at Tadali, Chandrapur and 1×300 MW TPP at Buttibori, Nagpur. The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its July meeting has recommended grant of Environmental Clearance to the project at Alibag, Raigad. The projects at Dhopave and Dherand could not be considered for grant of EC due to non-submission of requisite information by the project proponents. The projects at Tadali, Chandrapur and Buttibori, Nagpur have been delisted due to non-availability of water allocation/coal linkage. The proposal for expansion of units at Koradi Thermal Power Project will be considered in the next meeting of EAC to be held in August, 2009.

(d) Draft EIA Notification to further streamline the procedure for consideration of proposals for Terms of Reference and Environmental Clearance has been brought out by the Ministry on 19th January, 2009 for eliciting comments from various stake holders before finalisation. The frequency and duration of Expert Appraisal Committee meetings have also been increased.