

Environmental clearance to Athirappilly Hydro-electric Project

1262. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal for granting environmental clearance to the Athirappilly Hydro-electric Project of Thrissur District in Kerala is under consideration of the Ministry;
- (b) if so, details thereof; and
- (c) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Athirappilly Hydro-electric Project of Thrissur District in Kerala was granted environmental clearance on 18.7.2007.

(c) Based on the information that the Project might threaten the Primitive Kadar Tribes in the surroundings of proposed dam site, a show-cause notice under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 was issued to the Project Authorities to submit the facts. The information submitted by the Project Authorities was referred to the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel for review.

Policy on phone banking

†1263. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prepared any policy on phone banking;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when this policy will be implemented;
- (d) whether there is any provision for curbing the cases of misuse of credit card in the new policy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The Reserve Bank of India issued the guidelines for Mobile Banking transactions in October, 2008. The guidelines permit banks to provide mobile banking transactions and mandates that all transactions have to originate from one bank account and terminate in another bank account. The guidelines also permit banks to extend this facility through their business correspondents. Complaints/grievances arising out of mobile banking facility are covered under the Banking Ombudsman Scheme of RBI. The mobile banking guidelines were relaxed in December, 2009 to—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.