

**Anti-dam protests in North Eastern Region**

\*442. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of power projects cleared by the Minister during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware of the anti-dam protests in the North Eastern (NE) region;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Brahmaputra region is not suitable for construction of big dams;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that developing countries are not indulging in construction of big dams for power generation or otherwise; and
- (e) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) A total of 165 power projects were granted environmental clearance and 143 power projects were granted forest clearance by the Ministry of Environment and Forests during last three years. The details are given in Annexure. [See Appendix 225 Annexure No. 14]

(b) Representations against construction of some hydro power projects in North East region have been received by the Government. These relate to safety of dams and downstream impacts.

(c) to (e) No conclusive study on non-suitability of construction of large dams in the Brahmaputra Region has come to the notice of this Ministry. However, dams are designed taking into account the geological features and seismicity of the areas as per the codal provision of Bureau of Indian Standards. Construction of large dams for production of power or otherwise is permitted after detailed and through investigations and review by various organizations like Planning Commission, Central Water Commission, Central Electricity Authority and the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Site-specific seismic parameters to be adopted for design of a dam are approved by the National Committee on Seismic Design Parameters (NCSDP) under the Central Water Commission (CWC). Other dam safety related issues are approved by the Dam Safety Organisation (DSO) of CWC. Technical concurrence of CEA is also required for setting up of large hydro power projects. Environmental and forest clearances are accorded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests after through appraisal by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) constituted under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) under Forest Conservation Act, 1980.