

1	2	3
10.	Orissa	10
11.	Punjab	42
12.	Rajasthan	12
13.	Tamil Nadu	29
14.	Uttar Pradesh	24
15.	Uttarakhand	11
16.	West Bengal	2

Environmental clearance norms for cement and hydropower projects

29. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to put in the place stricter norms for grant of mandatory environment and forest clearance for cement projects and hydropower projects in the country including Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has found a great amount of plagiarism in proposals received by Government for grant of environment and forest clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, project-wise and the steps Government has taken/being taken on such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, prior environment clearance is mandatory from the Ministry of Environment and Forest for the 'A' Category projects and from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for the 'B' Category projects listed in its schedule. As per the said notification, all cement projects, River Vally and Hydro Power Projects of more than 25 MW capacity and all irrigation projects require prior environment clearance. Environmental clearance to such projects is accorded subject to stipulation of stringent environmental safeguards and compliance to environmental standards notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and its Rules notified from time to time.

Approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose including for cement and hydropower projects are accorded in accordance with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 and the guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) and (d) To enhance the quality of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports for obtaining environmental clearance, a system of Accreditation of EIA Consultants with Quality Council of India (QCI)/National Accreditation Board of Education and Training (NABET) has been introduced. In case of specific instances of plagiarism, coming to the notice of the Ministry, appropriate action will be undertaken.

Transfer of funds to Gujarat State CAMPA

30. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Gujarat has deposited Rs. 482.34 crores in adhoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) of the Central Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that, so far, only Rs.54.12 crores has been released against the deposited amount of Rs. 482.34 crores;

(c) if so, whether Government intends to transfer the amount of Rs. 482.34 crores deposited by Gujarat into the account of Gujarat State CAMPA; and

(d) what action has been taken so far, to return the remaining amount into Gujarat State CAMPA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) As per the records furnished by the Government of Gujarat, the total cumulative deposits in the accounts in the name of the Gujarat Compensatory Afforestation Fund/Gujarat State CAMPA are Rs. 583,47,39,564.00;

(b) Against the Annual Plans of Operation for the years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, the amounts released to the Gujarat State CAMPA were Rs. 24,96,47,000.00 (released on 19th August 2009); Rs. 29,15,68,000.00 (released on 1st October, 2010) and Rs. 26,30,00,000.00 (released on 8th September, 2011). The total cumulative release comes to Rs. 80,42,15,000.00;

(c) and (d) In terms of the order dated 10th July, 2009 passed by the Supreme Court of India in IA No. 2143 in Writ Petition No. 202 of 1995 titled T N Godavarman Thirumalpad Vs. Union of India and Ors, the annual releases to State CAMPAs have to be limited, *inter-alia*, to about Rs. 1,000 crores for the next five years. The extant orders of the Supreme Court of India do not contemplate release of the total funds deposited by the State CAMPAs.

Pollution of rivers in Assam

31. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problem of wide-scale pollution of the Bharalu, Deeper Bill, Burhidihing and Brahmaputra rivers of Assam;