

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) are jointly addressing the issues related to environmental health. MoEF has constituted an Apex Committee and a Working Group to address the environmental health issues which include developing/formulating strategies, identifying thrust areas, review activities on environmental health, etc. This Apex Committee and Working Group also have representation from ICMR.

**Forest clearance to Rengali Canal Project in Odisha**

2659. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of the State Government of Odisha relating to environment and forest pending clearance and the details of their present status;

(b) whether forest clearance of Rengali Canal (left bank canal phase-II and right bank canal) is receiving priority attention for clearance; and

(c) if so, the probable time for clearance of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) There are 65 projects pending for environmental clearance (Industry, 10; Thermal, 2; Infrastructure, 15; Coal Mine, 11; Non-Coal Mine, 27) due to non-submission of information by the project proponent/State Government. Seventeen projects for the grant of Stage-I approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are under various stages of examination.

(b) and (c) Stage-I approval for 2107.0 ha of forest land involved in Rengali Irrigation Project was granted by the Ministry on 21.11.1996. Stage-II clearance was granted for 812.0 ha. of forest land by the Ministry on 14.05.2003 in the first Phase involving entire reservoir and portions of Left Bank Canal (LBC) and Right Bank Canal (RBC) systems of the project. For the construction of remaining portions of LBC and RBC system in the 2nd Phase, Stage-II clearance is required for the balance 1295.0 ha. of forest land. For this purpose complete compliance reports on the stipulations imposed by the Ministry in their Stage-I and Stage-II (part) approvals are yet to be submitted by the User Agency.