

**Consideration of artificial rainfall/cloud seeding programmes**

912. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering artificial rainfall/cloud seeding programmes with the help of State Government and commercial firms after witnessing worst rainfall in June, 2014 in various parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) As things stand today, artificial rain making techniques involving cloud seeding cannot be used for bringing rain clouds to rainfall deficit/drought areas. Such efforts can only induce potential pre-existing clouds, already passing over a given place, to produce rain only if organized weather modification intervention becomes successful.

However Earth System Science Organisation - Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (ESSO-IITM) is putting its effort in understanding the rain formation in clouds through studying cloud microphysical characteristics through a research program Cloud Aerosol Interaction and Precipitation Enhancement Experiment (CAIPEEX).

Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) is in touch with ESSO-IITM in preparation of RFP for hiring services for cloud seeding operations. Similarly Karnataka State Agriculture Officials have also consulted ESSO-IITM for planning a possible cloud seeding program.

**Environment clearances to power projects**

913. DR. PRADEEPKUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been fast-tracking the environmental clearances to thermal power projects establishment in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of pending cases cleared so far, State-wise, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 governs the environmental clearance stipulations including that of time-limit. Thermal power projects are being accorded environmental clearance inline with all the stipulations of above Notification. The details of environmental clearances accorded to thermal power projects in the year 2014, till date are given in Statement.

**Statement**

*Environmental clearances accorded to thermal power projects  
in the current year (2014), as on 11.07.2014*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	2x250 MW Barauni Extension Thermal Power Project adjoining the existing unit of at BTPS Village: Barauni District: Begusarai, Bihar. <b>Company: M/s Bihar State Power Generation Company Ltd.</b>	500
2.	27 MW Co-generation Power Plant at Village: Nad KD, Taluk: Indi, District: Bijapur, Karnataka. <b>Company: M/s. Jamkhandi Sugars Ltd.</b>	27
3.	380 MW Gas based Combined cycle Power plant at Village Vijaipur, District: Guna, Madhya Pradesh. <b>Company: M/s GAIL India Ltd.</b>	380
4.	30 MW Bagasse and Biomass based Power Plant at Village: Khed, Taluk: Lohara District: Osmanabad, Maharashtra. <b>Company: M/s. Lokmangal Mauli Industries Ltd.</b>	30
5.	Modernization of existing unit-6 by change of fuel from LSHS/LSFO to imported Coal at Trombay Thermal Power Station at Mahul Road District: Chembur, Mumbai. <b>Company: M/s The Tata Power Company Ltd.</b>	500
6.	2x800 MW (Stage-I) Darlipali Supercritical Coal Based Thermal Power Plant Village: Darlipali, Taluk: Lephripara District: Sundergarh, Orissa. <b>Company: M/s. NTPC Ltd</b>	1600
7.	2x800 MW Ennore SEZ Supercritical Imported Coal based Thermal Power Plant by at Village Vayalur, in Ponneri Taluk, in District Thiruvallur, in Tamil Nadu. <b>Company: M/s TANGEDCO</b>	1600
8.	2x20 MW coal based captive power plant at village Bhumaraichak, District: Haldia, West Bengal <b>Company: M/s MCC PTA India Corpn. Pvt. Ltd.</b>	40
TOTAL		4677