

Environment clearances for power projects of Karnataka

2840. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the report of High Level Working Group submitted to the Ministry on 15 April, 2013 with regard to according environmental clearance for the proposed Gundia Hydro-electric Project of Karnataka;

(b) the status of the pending proposal for according environmental clearance for the proposed Edlapur Thermal Power Station of Karnataka; and

(c) by when Government would approve these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) The Ministry has constituted a High Level Working Group (HLWG) under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Member, Planning Commission for taking a view on the way forward to implement the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Report. The HLWG has submitted its report to MoEF and the same has been accepted by MOEF. The HLWG has not proposed a complete ban on the construction of hydropower projects in the ecologically sensitive areas (ESA). However, it has recommended to balance the needs of energy with environment, which must be adhered to for implementing developmental projects in the area. As proposed Gundia hydropower project is located in the ESA, its environmental clearance needs to be considered within the parameters & recommendations of Dr. K. Kasturirangan report. In view of this, the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited has been requested by the Ministry to conduct necessary study and submit a report taking into account the recommendations of Dr. K. Kasturirangan report.

(b) and (c) The Edlapur Thermal Power Plant was considered and appraised under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 by the Reconstituted Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for Thermal Power & Coal Mining Projects in its various meetings. The EAC sought additional information from the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited. The proposals are processed for environment clearance as per the provisions under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006.

Environment at the ship breaking yard in Alang Port

2841. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether environment at the ship breaking yard in Alang Port in Gujarat had

become very bad, that has been resulting in deaths of workers of ship breaking industry and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the status of action plan to address the above issue; and

(c) whether Government has put in place some agency to oversee and address the above issue and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) As per the information provided by the Gujarat Pollution Control Board there is no report of any environmental deterioration and related death of the workers of ship breaking industry due to ship recycling at ship breaking yard in Alang port in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Gujarat Maritime Board has informed that they have established a training institute at Alang and are in constant process of creating better environment for workforce by way of sound and healthy environment management.

New Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu

2842.DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared any new Tiger Reserves in the State of Tamil Nadu, besides the already existing one;

(b) if so, the details of the sites in Tamil Nadu which have been declared as Tiger Reserve since 2012; and

(c) if no site has been declared as Tiger Reserve since 2012, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) The State Government of Tamil Nadu has declared the Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve in 2013-14. As of now, there are four tiger reserves in the said State, viz. Anamalai, Kalakad Mundanthurai, Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam. The State Government has been advised to send a proposal for declaring the Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel/Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuaries, including portions of Varushanadu Valley as a tiger reserve.