

Air Quality Index

‡363. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Quality Index for checking the level of pollutants in the air has been applied to some select cities/metropolitan towns, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the impact of the Air Quality Index being applied on the efforts/measures being pushed into purify environment in the cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) National Air Quality Index (AQI) has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th April, 2015. The AQI considers pollution levels for eight pollutants namely, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO₂, O₃, CO, SO₂, NH₃ and Pb in ambient air. The values so generated are loaded on the website of Central Pollution Control Board for 11 cities namely, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Agra, Kanpur, Varanasi, Faridabad and Navi Mumbai. Sample AQI bulletin is given in the statement (*See* below).

AQI is meant for informing public about air quality and its likely impacts in simple linguistic terms easily understood by common man, and for ensuring larger public participation in air quality improvement efforts. AQI is released in form of a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour for effective communication to people. The AQI is a tool for information dissemination and not for abatement and control of pollution and will therefore not directly impact the air quality.

Proposals for various development schemes

364. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for various development schemes, received by Ministry from Uttarakhand for approval under the Forest Act, 1980;

(b) the details of the schemes approved;

(c) the names of the schemes which have not been approved; and

(d) by when the reweaving proposals would be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) Since 25.10.1980, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi and its Regional Office, Dehradun have received total 5,814 proposals from the State Government of Uttarakhand seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for various development schemes, out of which, 4,177 proposals have been approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Category wise proposals approved, closed or rejected by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is given in Statement (*See* below).

Grant of approval by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a continuing process. Quite often, proposals received from the State/UT Government are not complete in all respects and hence the Central Government has to seek further details/ documents from the concerned State/UT Governments. Moreover, the proposals involving forest area of more than 100 ha are also required to be inspected by the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. These are the main reasons for delay in granting approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Ministry takes prompt decision, when proposals complete in all respects, are submitted by the State/UT Governments.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

(A). Status of grant of forest clearance to proposals for various development schemes, received by the MoEF and CC, New Delhi from the State Government of Uttarakhand involving area more than 40 ha.

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Written Answers to

[RAJYA SABHA]

Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Category	Status of Grant of Approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980					Grand Total	
		Final approval	In-principle approval	Closed	Rejected	Returned		Withdrawn
1.	Defence	3	2	2			7	
2.	Dispensary/hospital	1					1	
3.	Forest village conversion		2		1		3	
4.	Hydel	14	2	3	1		22	
5.	Irrigation	2	1	2	2	1	8	
6.	Mining	3	1	1			5	
7.	Others	25	4	5	1		33	
8.	Railway	1					1	
9.	Rehabilitation	7					7	
10.	Road	15	8	2	1		27	
11.	School	1		1			2	
12.	Transmission line	13	1	2	1		17	
GRAND TOTAL		85	21	18	7	1	1	133

(B). Status of grant of forest clearance to proposals for various development schemes, received by the Regional Office, Dehradun of the MoEF and CC from the State Government of Uttarakhand involving area less than 40 ha.

Written Answers to

123 July, 2015]

Unstarred Questions

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Sl. No.	Category	Status of Grant of Approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980								
		Final approval accorded	In-Principle approval accorded	Closed under para 4. 14 of the FC Guidelines	Closed under 4. 2(ii) of the FC Guidelines	Referred to the State Government for additional information	Rejected for being Wild Life area	Rejected on Merit	Returned	Total
1.	Drinking Water Scheme	877	14	32	1	0	4	4	8	940
2.	Defence	3	9	0	1	3	0	0	0	16
3.	Dispensary/Hospital	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8
4.	Hydel	75	11	4	0	4	2	1	1	98
5.	Irrigation	142	3	15	1	0	0	1	4	166
6.	Mussoorie Dehradun development Authority	0	1	0	0	844	0	0	0	845
7.	Mining	12	0	4	4	0	0	3	0	23
8.	Road	1926	185	227	4	40	12	139	36	2569
9.	School	28	5	4	0	0	0	1	0	38
10.	Thermal Power	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
11.	Transmission Line	85	5	4	0	3	1	0	0	98
12.	Others	622	58	64	6	17	4	62	37	870
TOTAL		3780	291	354	17	911	23	212	86	5674