

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 211
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.12.2022

Projects pending for want of environmental clearance

211. SHRI DAMODAR RAO DIVAKONDA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of projects were pending with the Union Government since long for want of environmental clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the reasons for such undue delay particularly in the State of Telangana;
- (c) whether Government/National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) have cleared number of pending proposals including the projects on habitation/adjoining areas of endangered animals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to protect fauna and flora and the depleting forest cover in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (b) As per information available on PARIVESH Portal on 5th December 2022, approximately 117 proposals including 6 proposals of Telanganarelated to Environmental clearance (EC) are at various stages of consideration as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. State-wise number of such proposals is annexed. As per the provisions of EIA notification 2006, the prescribed time line for grant of EC is 105 days from the date of submission of complete proposal. Due to various measures/initiatives taken by the Ministry, the average time in grant of EC has reduced to 75 days in the year 2021 and 64 days in the current year.

(c) to (d) Proposals for developmental activities within National Parks, Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, Tiger Corridors and those activities requiring environmental clearance inside Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) around National Parks and Sanctuaries are forwarded by State Governments for consideration by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL). The proposals are forwarded after thorough scrutiny by the State Government and the State Board for Wild Life headed by the respective Chief Ministers. The SCNBWL, which also includes eminent ecologists, conservationists and environmentalists, takes informed decisions on the proposals placed for its consideration.

The Government has taken a number of steps to protect and conserve wildlife and endangered species of flora and fauna. These inter-alia include:

- i. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
- ii. Rare and endangered species of animals found in India like Snow Leopard, Olive Ridley Turtles, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, etc. have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
- iii. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
- iv. The Ministry has formulated the 3rd 'National Wildlife Action Plan' for a period of 2017 to 2031 to save wild animals in the country. The Plan focuses on landscape approach in conservation of all wildlife irrespective of where they occur. It also gives special emphasis to recovery of threatened species of wildlife while conserving their habitats which includes terrestrial, inland aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems.
- v. Providing financial assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant.'
- vi. Providing financial assistance to States/UTs for the recovery programme of critically endangered species under the component Recovery programme for saving of critically endangered species and habitats under CSS- 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'. A total of 22 critically endangered species have been identified under this programme.
- vii. A National Action Plan for conservation of migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway has been launched.
- viii. Local communities have been involved in conservation of migratory species e.g. Amur Falcon in State of Nagaland; Whale Shark in Gujarat; Dugong in Tamil Nadu; Olive Ridley Turtles in Odisha.
- ix. India is a signatory to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). India has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on conservation of Siberian Cranes, Marine Turtles, Dugongs and Raptors.
- x. In order to further strengthen conservation of wildlife, Eco- Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

ANNEXURE

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 211 DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.12.2022 REGARDING 'PROJECTS PENDING FOR WANT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE' RAISED BY HONBLE MP SHRI DAMODAR RAO DIVAKONDA

Details of EC Projects as on 05.12.2022		
S. No.	States / UTs	Number of EC proposals at various stages of consideration/approval at Central level
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	2
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Chandigarh	1
6.	Chhattisgarh	3
7.	Delhi	1
8.	Gujarat	12
9.	Haryana	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
12.	Jharkhand	2
13.	Karnataka	15
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6
15.	Maharashtra	15
16.	Manipur	1
17.	Orissa	11
18.	Pondicherry	1
19.	Punjab	3
20.	Rajasthan	12
21.	Tamil Nadu	4
22.	Telangana	6
23.	Uttar Pradesh	5
24.	West Bengal	6
Total		117