

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2228

ANSWERED ON: 09.03.2011

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO COAL PROJECTS

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Will the Minister of

COAL

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether non-clearance to some of the coal projects by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and some other factors have resulted in shortage of coal in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;
- (c) whether any discussions have been held between his Ministry and the Ministry of Environment and Forests regarding re-classifying of coal bearing areas under forest areas;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the details of pending coal projects with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for environmental and forest clearance, project-wise and coal subsidiary-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the clearance?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Meetings/discussions are regularly held between Ministry of Environment and Forests and this Ministry to expedite Environmental and Forestry Clearances. This is a continuous process. Other issues are like Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R), land acquisition, law and order etc are also taken up regularly for resolution with appropriate authorities.

(c) & (d): The issue of providing move of coal bearing areas under forest cover for coal mining is under deliberation at the highest level by a Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted for the purpose by the Government.

(e): The details of pending coal projects with MoEF are as under:

(i) Pending Stage –I and Stage-II forestry proposals:

Sl	Subsidiaries	Stage-I No. of projects pending at MoEF and State Level		Stage-II No. of projects pending at MoEF and State Level	
		Projects	MoEF/State	Projects	MoEF/State
1.	Eastern Coalfields Limited	3	(1) MoEF (2) State	1	(1) State
2.	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	1	(1) MoEF	2	(2) State
3.	Central Coalfields Limited	14	(4) MoEF (10) State	11	(7) MoEF (4) State
4.	Northern Coalfields Limited	1	(1) State	1	(1) MoEF
5.	Western Coalfields Limited	27	(5) MoEF (22) State	6	(6) State
6.	Sourth Eastern Coalfields Limited	47	(9) MoEF (38) State	33	(11) MoEF (22) State
7.	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	16	(16) State		
8.	North Eastern Coalfields	7	(7) State		

(ii) Pending for Environmental Clearances

Sl	Total No.of projects	Projects pending for
1.	14	Terms of Reference (TOR)
2.	25	Public Hearing (PH)
3.	8	Environmental Appraisals Committee (EAC)
4.	20	Environment Clearance

(f): The following steps have been taken to expedite the clearances:

- i) Vigorous follow up action with land acquisition officials of State Govts. to expedite acquisition proceedings.
- ii) Forest Officials are contacted on regular basis at District & Tehsil level to fulfil the requirement & queries.
- iii) Periodical contacts are done with the Regional Office of MOEF/ MOEF, New Delhi for expediting clearance of the environmental & forestry proposals.
- iv) Discussions are held with the land owners/ villagers for selection of rehabilitation site and also to persuade them to shift to the rehabilitation site.
- v) State authorities are apprised regularly for resolving law and order issues.