

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.546
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

Environmental Clearance to Projects

546. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:
SHRI POCHA BRAHMANANDA REDDY:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has examined the proposal of the Rayalaseema Irrigation Lift Project drafted by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether the Government is providing environmental clearances for the said project, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the projects approved with Environmental Clearance (EC) where the EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) used outdated baseline data; and
- (d) the details of projects given clearance/approval by the Ministry amending the CRZ notification to date and the rationale for such amendments?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh vide letter no. CE(P)KNL/ICD32-TW/2021/AEE5/RLS dated 08th June, 2021 has submitted a proposal seeking amendment to the existing Environmental Clearances to include Rayalaseema Lift Scheme under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended. The instant Proposal has been considered by the sectoral Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meetings held on 16th - 17th June, 2021 and 7th July, 2021 and after detail deliberation the EAC had sought following information from the project proponent for further consideration of the proposal:

- i. A holistic report on water availability in the river, with the existing and future schemes including hydro power projects, should be provided as envisaged in the approved Master Plan for River Developments.
- ii. A study showing the pre and post project temporal simulations of drawl of water from the reservoir.
- iii. Detailed status of other similar water lifting projects in the region/ neighbouring States along with status of environmental clearance in respect of such projects.
- iv. The locations of any Wildlife Sanctuary, Reserved Forest Area and other ecological habitats likely to be affected by the reduced levels in the reservoir post construction of the project.

The aforementioned information as sought by EAC has not been submitted by the Project Proponent till date.

(c) to (d) The Ministry considers the project/activity for grant of Environmental Clearance under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006, as amended and as per Office Memoranda issued by the Ministry to implement the provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 from time to time. As per the Office Memorandum dated 08.06.2022, the baseline data and Public Hearing shall not be more than three years old at the time of submission of application for consideration of EC. At the time of application for EC, in case baseline data is older than three years, but less than five years old in the case of River Valley and Hydro-Electric Projects, or less than four years old in the case of other projects, the same shall be considered, subject to the condition that it is revalidated with one season fresh non-monsoon data collected after three years of the initial baseline data. Amendments made in CRZ notification are generic in nature and are made following due procedure.
