GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3249
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 31.03.2022

Environment Impact Assessment of the Ken-Betwa Project

3249. SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:
SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM**:**

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

(a) whether an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted for the Ken Betwa Project, the details thereof;
(b) whether Government has studied the impact of the project on local tiger population in the Panna Tiger Reserve, given that the project will submerge nearly 100 sq.km of the corearea of this Reserve of which 10 per cent is the critical tiger habitat;
(c) whether any consultations were held with local populations and environmental experts prior to the project approval; and
(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b) The KenBetwa Project is a river link project with the main aim of transferring surplus water of Ken basin to water deficit Betwa basin. The project is to be implemented in two phases namely:

1. Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase – I
2. Ken–Betwa Link Project, Phase–II

The Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase – I comprises following components:

i. Construction of an earth fill and concrete dam near Daudhan village on Ken river
ii. Link canal for transferring water from Ken river to Betwa basin

The Ken–Betwa Link Project, Phase–II envisages construction of following projects:

i. Lower Orr Dam project at Village Didoni, Tehsil Chanderi, District Ashoknagar, Madhya Pradesh
ii. Kotha Barrage major irrigation project at Village Kotha, Tehsil Kurwai, District Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh
iii. Bina Complex Multipurpose Project (32MW) at Village Chakarpur, Tehsil Sagar, District Sagar in Madhya Pradesh

The Ministry has delineated a detailed procedure for comprehensive assessment of environmental and social impacts of the project in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, as amended; which *inter-alia* provides for preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, Environmental Management Plan (EMP), Disaster Management Plan (DMP) and Public Consultation. The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) comprising domain area experts, after detailed examination and deliberation on various environmental and social aspects of the project, recommends the project for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) by suggesting suitable mitigation measures and Environment Management to minimize the environmental and social impacts associated with the project.
The following projects under Ken- Betwa Link project have been granted EC under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended after detailed appraisal by the EAC/SEAC constituted by the Ministry:

Phase I

Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-I at Village Daudhan, Tehsil Bijawar, District Chhatarpurin Madhya Pradesh (EC has been accorded by MoEF&CC on 25.08.2017)

Phase II

Bina Complex Multipurpose Project (32MW) at Village Chakarpur, Tehsil Sagar, District Sagar in Madhya Pradesh (EC has been accorded by MoEF&CC on 22.02.2017)
Kotha Barrage major irrigation project at Village Kotha, Tehsil Kurwai, District Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh (EC has been accorded by State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, MP on 21.08.2020).

The Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has assessed the various impacts due to implementation of Ken-Betwa link projectincluding loss of tiger habitat of 105 sq.km in Panna Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, in light of the combined site inspection report of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and two members of *Standing Committee*of *National Board for Wildlife*. After discussion, the *Standing Committee*of *National Board for Wildlife* recommended the project with the conditions as prescribed by site inspection team and NTCA. Accordingly, wildlife clearance was granted to the project on 21st September, 2016.

(c) & (d) The Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (MPPCB) has conducted public hearing following the procedure prescribed under the EIA Notification, 2006 for each individual project of Ken Betwa Link Project Phase I and Phase II, which have been granted EC, as per schedule mentioned as under:

i. **Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-I** at Village Daudhan, Tehsil Bijawar, District Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh- Public notice published on 21st& 23rd November, 2014 in local News Paper DainikBhaskar and Hindustan regarding public hearing.The Public Hearing was conducted on 23rd& 27th December, 2014 in Chattarpur& Panna Districts respectively.
ii. **Ken–Betwa Link Project, Phase–II-Bina Complex Multipurpose Project (32MW)** at Village Chakarpur, Tehsil Sagar, District Sagar in Madhya Pradesh- Public noticePublished on 13.04.2016 in local News Paper Dainik Bhaskar and Nai Duniya in Raisen, Vidisha (Patrika and Dainik bhaskar on 13.04.2016) and Sagar (Danik Bhaskar on 26.04.2016 and Hindustan Times on 27.04.2016) Districts. The Public Hearing was conducted in Raisen District on 18th May, 2016, Vidhisha District on 20th May, 2016 and in Sagar District on 27th May, 2016 respectively.

iii. **Ken–Betwa Link Project, Phase–II-Kotha Barrage major irrigation project** at Village Kotha, Tehsil Kurwai, District Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh- Public notice published for conducting Public Hearing on 8th June, 2018 in Hindi Daily, "Dainik Bhaskar", "Nav-Dunia" daily newspaper of Vidisha on 8th June, 2019.The Public Hearing was conducted on 10th July, 2019 in District Vidisha.

The public notice was published in local and national newspapers one month prior to the date of public hearing to receive the comments from general public. The EAC at the time of appraisal of the project for grant of EC considered the comments received during public consultation.

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