

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 536
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Environmental clearances for ONGC oil wells

536. DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:

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

- (a) whether Central Government has conducted environment impact assessment studies on the environmental and ecological degradation, loss of agriculture, contamination of ground water caused by proposed ONGC oil wells at Ariyalur and Ramanathapuram districts of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Central Government has received environmental clearances for the above said ONGC oil wells from State Government of Tamil Nadu; 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) to (d): As per the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, amended from time to time, Terms of Reference (ToR) are issued in respect of any proposed Project or Activity for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environment Management Plan (EMP) reports covering all relevant environmental concerns. The validity of ToR is four years from date of issuance. After preparation of draft EIA/EMP report in compliance to ToR and after completion of the public consultation, wherever required, the project proponent is required to address all the material environmental concerns expressed during this process and make appropriate changes in the draft EIA and EMP report. The final EIA/EMP report, so prepared, is to be submitted by the project proponent to the concerned regulatory authority i.e., Ministry or State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for grant of EC, as the case may be.

As per available information, Ministry has granted one Environmental Clearance in Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu to M/s. ONGC Ltd vide letter dated 30th August, 2018 for exploratory drilling of 22 Wells (Onshore) based on EIA/EMP report submitted by the said project proponent. The aforesaid EIA/EMP inter-alia includes the relevant aspects related to environment i.e., air, water, soil biodiversity, solid and hazardous waste management etc.
