

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1158
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024

Thermal power plant in Dadri Khurd

1158. SMT. MAUSAM NOOR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that proposed thermal power plant site in Dadri Khurd, Mirzapur, falls within land recorded as forest in a 1952 State Gazette;
- (b) how does Government justify considering only 12 hectares as forest land, given the Godavarman judgement's definition of forest;
- (c) the measures that will ensure a thorough environmental impact assessment, considering 2016 NGT order on a similar project;
- (d) how will Government protect the area's unique flora and fauna, especially the Schedule one listed sloth bear; and
- (e) how this thermal plant proposal is justified, given the 2022 clarification on non-site specific proposals for forest clearances?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is in receipt of proposal (No. IA/UP/THE/467671/2024) from M/s Mirzapur Thermal Energy (UP) Private Limited (MTEUPPL) seeking Terms of Reference (ToRs) for preparation of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 as amended for setting up of 2x800 MW Coal based Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Project (TPP) at Village Dadri Khurd, Tehsil, Mirzapur Sardar, District Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. As per the proposal submitted to the Ministry, total project area is 365.19 Ha and no forest land is involved. Further, there is an involvement of 8.35 Ha forest land (water pipeline: 5.8162 Ha and approach road: 2.5419 Ha) which falls outside the project area and project proponent has applied vide proposal no. FP/UP/THE/14236/2015 for obtaining Stage-I Forest Clearance. This proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and recommended for grant of ToR which incorporates the specific condition related to compliance of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) order dated 21.12.2016. The EIA/EMP report which is prepared on the basis of ToRs evaluates the environmental impacts of the project including impacts on flora and fauna for which corresponding Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is prepared.

In addition to the declared or notified forests, the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980 are also applicable to the areas recorded in Government record as forest, as on or after 25.10.1980. However, the subject matter of "land" falls under the

purview of State Government being a State subject. The forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government. That, inter-alia, being the repository of land records, State Government has the primary responsibility to determine status of any parcel of land, giving due regards to gazette notifications, provisions under State and Central Acts and concerned judgments and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The proposals for the diversion of forest land under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 are processed online on the PARIVESH portal. As per information available on the said portal, the Central Government has so far not accorded any approval for the diversion of forest land for the Thermal Plant at Dadri Khurd.
