

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1343
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

Clearances to Mokedatu Balancing Reservoir Project

1343 DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government has received any proposal seeking Environmental Clearance or Forest Clearance for the proposed Mokedatu Balancing Reservoir Project in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the present status thereof;
- (c) whether Government has examined the likely impact of the Project on the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, forest ecosystem, biodiversity, elephant corridors and downstream ecology; and
- (d) whether any independent cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted before considering the grant of statutory clearances?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The proposal of Mokedatu Balancing Reservoir and Drinking Water Project in Ramanagara and Chamarajanagar Districts of Karnataka was submitted to the Ministry for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) on 20.06.2019 in order to obtain prior Environmental Clearance(EC) under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended. The proposal was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC), constituted by the Ministry to consider the hydro-electric projects & irrigation projects for grant of prior Environmental Clearance, in its 25th meeting held on 19.07.2019.

Based on the recommendations of the EAC, the MoEF&CC, after examination of the matter in consultation with the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), has decided that as the project involves inter-state issues, Terms of Reference (ToR) for the project may be issued only after DPR of the Mokedatu project is finalised by MoJS and approved by Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) that has been constituted to give effect to the decision of the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal's (CWDT) order, as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The concurrence of the MoJS and CWMA on the DPR of the project is still awaited. No proposal for grant of Forest Clearance under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, in respect of the project is under consideration in the Ministry.
