

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3398
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2020

Environment and Forest Clearance

3398. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) whether a large number of project proposals are pending with the Government from North Eastern Region States including Assam for want of environment and forest clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has categorised the development projects which have been pending for want of forest clearance and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any new "Open Cast Coal Mining" projects have been cleared in the Tinsukia district of Assam and Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) to (c) As per the available information on PARIVESH, there are 11 projects, located in North Eastern Region including Assam, which are at various stages of appraisal under Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its amendment from time to time in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

There are no cases pending in the Ministry for grant of approval (Stage II Clearance) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for North Eastern Region. However, there are 2 projects under process in the Ministry and 5 projects in the Regional Office, Shillong for grant of Stage-I approval (In-Principle) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. State wise details of projects under consideration for environmental clearance, Stage I (In-Principle) forest clearance and projects for which Stage-I/Stage-II forest clearance is granted are annexed.

(d) & (e) No environment clearance for Open Cast Coal Mining project has been granted in the Tinsukia district of Assam and Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh during 2018-19 and 2019-20.

However, forest clearance has been accorded to 1 project in Tinsukia district of Assam during 2019-20. State-wise details are annexed.

Annexure I

Details of proposals under consideration for Environmental Clearance located in North Eastern Region

S.No.	State	Pending Proposals
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
2.	Assam	7
3.	Manipur	1
4.	Meghalaya	2
5.	Mizoram	0
6.	Nagaland	0
7.	Sikkim	0
8.	Tripura	1
Total		11

Annexure-II

Details of Stage-I approval granted by MoEF & CC							
S. No.	State Name	Distric	File No	Proposal Name	Area Applied (in Ha.)	Area Diverted (in Ha.)	Proposal Status
1	Assam	Tinsukia	8-05/2012-FC	Diversion of 235.00 Ha of Forest Land For Lekhapani Open Cast Project of North Eastern Coalfields Under Lakhapani Range of Digboi Division For Coal Mining By North Eastern Coalfields, Coal India Limited (A Public Sector Undertaking)	235	235	Stage-I Approval granted on 28.03.2014 & Compliance report awaited from State Govt.
2	Assam	Tinsukia	8-61/2011-FC	Diversion Of 72.00 Ha. of Forest Land For The Tikok Extension OCP & Lekhapani OCP To Saleki Prf Are Under Digboi Division In District Tinsukia, Assam (Coal Mining)	72	72	Stage-I Approval on 26.03.2013 & Compliance report awaited from State Govt.
3	Assam	Tinsukia	8-34/2013-FC	Diversion of 98.59 Ha for Tikak Opencast Project of North Eastern Coalfields Coal India Ltd. in Saleki PRF under Digboi Division of Assam	98.59	98.59	Stage-I Approval on 26.12.2019 & Compliance report awaited from State Govt.

Annexure- II

Details of Projects, which are under process for grant of Stage-I approval (In-Principle) under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980						
Head Office, MoEF&CC , New Delhi						
S. No	State	File No.	Proposal Name	Category	Area in ha	Status
1	Arunachal Pradesh	8-11/2017-FC	Proposal For Diversion Of 280.54 Ha Of Forestland For Construction Of Talong Londa Hydro Electric Project (225Mw) In East Kameng District Of Arunachal Pradesh By M/S Gmr Londa Hydro Power Pvt. Ltd.	Hydel	280.54	Proposal was considered in FAC on 27.02.2020 & Minutes of Meeting under Finalization.
2	Arunachal Pradesh	8-20/2014-FC	Proposal For Diversion of 1165.66 Ha Includind(91.33 Ha Under Ground Area) of Forestland For Construction of Etalin Hydro Electric Project (3097 Mw) In Dibang Valley District of Arunachal Pradesh By M/S Etalin Hydro Electric Power Company Ltd.,	Hydel	1165.66	Proposal was considered in FAC held on 17.10.2019 & sub-committee of FAC shall visit the site and check if the total land requirement could be further reduced. The sub-committee may also look into the concerns highlighted by Regional Office in its Site Inspection Report (SIR) especially related to tree enumeration process and the aspects highlighted in biodiversity assessments study by Wild Life Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. Report of subcommittee shall be exhaustive with appropriate recommendation so that FAC could take appropriate decision. vide letter dated 8.11.2019.
Regionl Offices Shillong						
S. No	State	File No.	Proposal Name	Category	Area in ha	Status
1	Arunachal Pradesh	3-AN B 053/2018-SHI	Proposal for diversion of forest land for oil drilling location DML-3/1 in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh by M/s Oil India Limited., Duliajan, Assam	Mining (Drilling)	3.6	The proposal was discussed in REC on 18.02.2019 and the proposal forwarded to Ministry by Regional Office, Shillong vide letter dated 12.02.2020 for consideration of approval by the competent authority.

2	Tripur a	3-TR B 041/20 18-SHI	Proposal for diversion of 1.76 ha of forest land for construction of drill site and waste pit & approach road at location TIDA under District Forest Officer, Sepahijala.	Mining	1.76	Proposal was discussed by REC on 21.12.2018 and sent to Ministry for consideration of the approval by the competent authority by RO Shillong on 26.06.2019. Ministry, New Delhi wrote to Ministry of Petroleum seeking comments regarding consideration of drilling cases as mining or not . The original file returned to RO, Shillong vide Ministry letter F.No. 14-10/2019-ROHQ dated 30.10.2019. Ministry has been requested by Regional Office, Shillong vide letter dated 03.12.2019 to inform Regional Office, Shillong as and when the comment regarding consideration of drilling case as mining or not is received from the Ministry of Petroleum for further submission of the proposal to the Ministry for approval of the competent authority.
3	Tripur a	No. 3- TR C 006/20 18-SHI	Proposal for diversion of 1.368 ha of forest land for construction drilling site and waste pit and approach road at location TIAC under District Forest Officer, Sepahijala.	Mining	1.368	The proposal was discussed by REC on 05.07.2019 and sent to Ministry for consideration of the approval by the competent authority by RO Shillong on 09.07.2019. Ministry, New Delhi wrote to Ministry of Petroleum seeking comments regarding consideration of drilling cases as mining or not . The original file returned to RO Shillong vide Ministry letter F.No. 14-10/2019-ROHQ dated 01.11.2019. Ministry has been requested by Regional Office, Shillong vide letter dated 03.12.2019 to inform Regional Office, Shillong as and when the comment regarding consideration of drilling case as mining or not is received from the Ministry of Petroleum for further submission of the proposal to the Ministry for approval of the competent authority.
4	Tripur a	F.No. 3 TR B 071/20 18-SHI	Proposal for diversion of 1.496 ha of forest land for construction of drilling site and waste pit and approach road at location TIDE under District Forest Officer, Sepahijala.	Mining	1.496	REC on 05.07.2019 discussed the NBWL consent. REC recommended and proposal sent to Ministry for approval of competent authority on 09.07.2019. Ministry, New Delhi wrote to Ministry of Petroleum seeking comments regarding consideration of drilling cases as mining or not. The original file returned to RO Shillong vide Ministry letter F.No. 14-10/2019-ROHQ dated 01.11.2019. Ministry has been requested by Regional Office, Shillong vide letter dated 03.12.2019 to inform Regional Office, Shillong as and when the comment regarding consideration of drilling case as mining or not is received from the Ministry of Petroleum for further submission of

						the proposal to the Ministry for approval of the competent authority.
5	Tripura	No. 3-TR C 012/20 18-SHI	Proposal for diversion of 1.96 ha of forest land for construction of drill site and waste pit and approach road at location TIDF under District Forest Officer, Sepahijala.	Mining	1.96	Proposal was discussed in the REC on 23.08.2019 and REC recommended and the proposal was sent to Ministry for approval of competent authority on 03.09.2019. Ministry, New Delhi wrote to Ministry of Petroleum seeking comments regarding consideration of drilling cases as mining or not. The original file returned to RO Shillong vide Ministry letter F.No. 14-10/2019-ROHQ dated 01.11.2019 Ministry has been requested by Regional Office, Shillong vide letter dated 03.12.2019 to inform Regional Office, Shillong as and when the comment regarding consideration of drilling case as mining or not is received from the Ministry of Petroleum for further submission of the proposal to the Ministry for approval of the competent authority.