

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4053
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022

Environmental Impact of Infrastructural Projects

4053. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing instances of fish deaths reported from river Teesta and tributaries in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Sikkim region due to hydro-power and other infrastructural projects;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to mitigate the environmental impacts of these infrastructural projects in the said region;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of increasing instances of landslides and floods in the districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government towards disaster mitigation and management in the region?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) This Ministry has not received any report of unusual fish mortality from river Teesta and tributaries in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Sikkim region. The Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore also undertook a study during 2019-21 and found no unusual fish mortality in the region.

(b) to (d) The Ministry has delineated a detailed procedure for comprehensive assessment of environmental and social impacts of the project/activity including hydro-power and other infrastructure projects 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 environmental concerns viz. protection and conservation of natural environment and biodiversity in the region, occurrence of other natural disasters like flood, landslide etc., recommend the project for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC). Suitable mitigation measures are incorporated, like identification of vulnerable Zones/landslide zones, monitoring of e-flow and preparation and implementation of Fisheries

Management Plan, Catchment Area Treatment plan (CAT), Reservoir Rim Treatment Plan (RRT), Disaster Management Plan (DMP) comprising installation of Early Warning Telemetric System (EWTS) in the upper catchment area, Muck Management Plan, Green belt development etc. to minimize the impacts of such natural hazards. Apart from the above, new/innovative materials and soil nailing technologies are also used for development of all National Highways, including the National Highways in hilly terrain for reducing the landslide events.
