## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

## LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 782 TO BE ANSWERED ON: 07.02.2022

**Environmental Clearance to Mekedatu Dam Project** 

782: SHRI PRAJWAL REVANNA

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

- (a) whether the environmental clearance to Mekedatu dam project in Karnataka is approved by the Ministry and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasonstherefor;
- (b) the details of forest area and villages likely to be submerged/displacement of people likely to be affected;
- (c) the time by which the environmental clearance is likely to be approved; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government for quick environmental clearance to Mekedatu Project?

## **ANSWER**

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

The proposal for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR) to conduct Environment (a) to (d) Impact Assessment (EIA) study for construction of Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and Drinking Water Project in Ramanagara and Chamarajanagar Districts of Karnataka was submitted to the Ministry 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 proposal of River Valley and Hydro-electric project for grant of EC, in the 25<sup>th</sup> EAC meeting held on 19.07.2019. As per project feasibility report submitted by the project authority a total of 4996 ha area at FRL 440 m will be submerged due to this project, of which 2925.5 ha is part of Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary and 1869.50 ha is part of Reserved Forest. The villages namely, Sangama, Kongedoddi, Madavala, Muthathi and Bommasandrafall in the areas under submergence. The EAC after detailed deliberations on the proposed project inter-alia view of inter-State issues between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, opined that in an amicable solution needs to be arrived at between the two States.

The MoEF&CC, after examination of the issues and in consultation with Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), has decided to consider the proposal for grant of Terms of Reference(ToR) to Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and Drinking Water Projectonly after acceptance of Draft Prefeasibility Report (DPR) of the Mekedatu project by the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

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