

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1280.
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 25.07.2022

Projects Pending for Environmental Clearance

1280. SHRI AJAY KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER:
SHRI HEMANT SRIRAM PATIL:

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

- (a) whether a large number of projects are pending with the Union Government since long for environmental clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such delay, State/UT-wise particularly of Punjab and Bihar and Bhagalpur district in Bihar;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the losses due to the delay in granting clearance to the said projects, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have cleared number of pending proposals including the projects habitation/ adjoining areas of endangered animals;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for providing early environment clearance to such pending projects; and
- (f) the measures taken by the Government to protect fauna and flora and the depleting forest cover in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): As per information available on PARIVESH Portal, approximately 172 proposals belonging to various State/UT including one Environmental Clearance (EC) proposal received from the State of Punjab and three EC proposals from the State of Bihar for grant of EC are being dealt at the Central level. No EC proposal is pending from the District Bhagalpur at central level.

With a view to expedite the EC process, a number of steps have been taken by the Central Government, which includes following:

- (i) Ministry has launched a single window online PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window

Hub) portal on 10th August, 2018 which automates the entire process of EC starting from submission of application, preparation of agenda, preparation of Minutes to grant of clearances.

- (ii) EAC meetings for appraisal of projects are now conducted twice a month.
- (iii) Various initiatives have been taken by the Ministry towards necessary amendments in the policies and regulations to ensure transparent and simplified process of EC without compromising on rigor of the environmental concerns.

Due to various efforts taken by Government towards streamlining the EC procedure, overall time taken in grant of EC has reduced considerably over the years and it has taken approximately 75 days in the year 2021 against the maximum of 105 days as prescribed in EIA Notification, 2006.

(f): The Government has taken a number of measures to protect flora and increase in forest cover in the Country. These, inter-alia, include the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Compensatory Afforestation Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Afforestation activities are also taken up under various schemes of State Government /UT Administration. As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the forest cover has increased by 1540 square kilometer compared to last assessment i.e. ISFR 2019. Various schemes are being implemented by the Central and State Government/Union Territory Administration for increase in forest and tree cover in the country.

Similarly, the Government has also taken a number of steps to protect and conserve wildlife and endangered species of flora and fauna. These, inter-alia, include:

- i. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
- ii. Rare and endangered species of animals found in India like Snow Leopard, Olive Ridley Turtles, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, etc. have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
- iii. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
- iv. The Ministry has formulated the 3rd 'National Wildlife Action Plan' for a period of 2017 to 2031 to save wild animals in the country. The Plan focuses on landscape approach in conservation of all wildlife irrespective of where they occur. It also gives special emphasis to recovery of threatened species of wildlife while conserving their habitats which includes terrestrial, in land aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems.
- v. Providing financial assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant.'
- vi. Providing financial assistance to States/UTs for the recovery programme of critically endangered species under the component Recovery programme for saving of critically endangered species and habitats under CSS- 'Development of

Wildlife Habitats'. A total of 22 critically endangered species have been identified under this programme.

- vii. A National Action Plan for conservation of migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway has been launched.
- viii. Local communities have been involved in conservation of migratory species e.g. Amur Falcon in State of Nagaland; Whale Shark in Gujarat; Dugong in Tamil Nadu; Olive Ridley Turtles in Odisha.
- ix. India is a signatory to the Convention on Migratory Species(CMS). India has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) on conservation of Siberian Cranes, Marine Turtles, Dugongs and Raptors.
- x. In order to further strengthen conservation of wildlife, Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection)Act, 1986.
