

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.19
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2015

Environmental/Forest Clearance for Major Projects

* 19. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether a number of major projects including those of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation for grant of environmental/forest clearances are pending with the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including the present status of each of the project, sector and State-wise;
- (c) the number of proposals/projects seeking environmental/forest clearances received online through the web portal and the details of such projects/proposals cleared so far in respect of Government and Non-Governmental Organisations since the introduction of online submission of proposals/projects for environmental/forest clearances; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to clear all the pending projects expeditiously?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 19 for reply on 21st July, 2015 regarding “Environmental/Forest Clearance for Major Projects” raised by ShriChandra Prakash Joshi and Shri P.P. Chaudhary.

(a) & (b) The offshore and on-shore oil and gas exploration, development & production activity listed at item no. 1(b) in the Schedule of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), Notification 2006 requires prior Environmental Clearance (EC). While granting EC, 4 stage processes namely Screening, Scoping, Public Consultation and Appraisal of project are involved.

Total 24 Ecs have been granted to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) since May 2014 till 17.07.2015. Presently, 08 projects of ONGC are under appraisal for EC. Out of these, 03 projects have been recommended by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) but are withheld for want of Stage-1 Forest Clearance. Besides, one project is under consideration for Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Clearance. Status of cases granted with EC and pending for EC in respect of ONGC is Annexed.

(c) & (d) Since inception of online system from 1st July 2014, a total of 711 proposals for EC have been accepted, which are at various stages of appraisal/approvals. Out of which, 213 ECs have been granted as on 17.07.2015.

As regard Forest Clearance, total 1,630 proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have been accepted by the State/UT Administration since 15th July 2014. Out of these, 233 proposals have been accorded ‘in-principle’ approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Apart from online system, Government has taken various steps for speedy environmental clearance of projects. Among these, Terms of References at scoping stage have been standardized to facilitate timely collection of environment monitoring data and preparation of Impact Assessment Reports. Validity of environment clearance has also been extended from 5 to 7 years to allow uninterrupted project activities. Declaring Eco-sensitive Zone for the protected areas.

Similarly, for expediting the process of Forest Clearance, several steps have been taken such as (i) operationalisation of GIS based decision support system; (ii) delegation of power to Regional empowered Committee to dispose off linear proposals, General approval under F (C) Act, 1980 for linear diversion within 100 km of areal distance from Line of Actual Control (iii) Notification of Forest (Conservation) 2nd Amendment Rules 2014.

Status of EC granted and that are pending to ONGC**A List of EC granted to ONGC from 1st July 2014 to till date**

S.N.	Title of Project	State	EC granted on
1	Development of North Karanpura CBM Block NK-CBM-2001/1 in Jharkhand by M/s ONGC Ltd. - Environmental Clearance reg.	Jharkhand	12.05.2015
2	Additional Exploratory Drilling of 35 Wells in KG Offshore (IA, IB & IG, IE and IF) Block in Andhra Pradesh by M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL) - Environmental Clearance reg.	Andhra Pradesh	13.04.2015
3	Additional Exploratory Drilling (28 Wells) in KG (On-land) PML acreages of Krishna District, Additional Drilling (24 Wells) in KG Basin on land PML of West Godavari District and Additional Exploratory Drilling (13 Wells) on land PML acreages of East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh by M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL) – Amendment in Environmental Clearance reg.	Andhra Pradesh	23.03.2015
4	Exploratory Drilling (3 wells) in Bengal Onshore Block WB-ONN-2005/3, West Bengal under NELP-VII by M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL) – Environmental Clearance reg.	West Bengal	22.01.2015
5	Exploratory Drilling (6 wells) in Bengal Onshore Block WB-ONN-2005/4, West Bengal under NELP-VII by M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL) - Environmental Clearance reg.	West Bengal	22.01.2015
6	Exploratory Drilling (3 wells) in Bengal Onshore Block WB-ONN-2005/3, West Bengal under NELP-VII by M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL) – Environmental Clearance reg.	West Bengal	22.01.2015
7	Drilling of 9 Exploratory Wells in Kutch Offshore NELP-IX Block GK-OSN-2010/1, GK-OSN- 2010/2 in West Coast of India by M/s ONGC Ltd. –Environmental Clearance reg.	Gujarat	22.01.2015
8	Exploratory Drilling of 3 wells of M/s ONGC in Bengal Onshore Block WB-ONN-2005/2 under NELP-VII, West Bengal - Environmental Clearance reg.	West Bengal	23.01.2015
9	Development Drilling of 30 Wells (on-shore) in Cauvery Basin in 7 Blocks (On-shore), Greater Narimanam ML Block, Adiyakkamangalam ML Block, Nannilam-I &Nannilam-II ML Block, Kali & Kali # 6 ML Block, Kuthanallur ML Block, Greater Kovikalapal ML Block and Pundi ML Block, Tamil Nadu by M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL) – Environmental Clearance reg.	Tamil Nadu	30.01.2015
10	Exploratory Drilling of 3 Wells in Chambal Valley Vindhyan (NELP-VI Block VN-ONN-2004/2), Frontier Basin ONGC, Village Dholam, Tehsil-ChippaBarod, District Baran, Rajasthan by M/s ONGC- Environmental Clearance reg.	Rajasthan	22.01.2015

11	Drilling of 25 Nos. Wells in 885.35 Sq. Km area of Jaiselmer Basin (comprises of 04 ML and one PEL Block) by M/s ONGC Ltd.- Environmental Clearance reg.	Rajasthan	26.11.2014
12	Additional Exploratory Drilling (01 well) in Kangra-Mandi under PEL Block, Himachal Pradesh by M/s ONGC Ltd. - regarding amendment in EC.	Himachal Pradesh	24.12.2014
13	Exploration Drilling of 10 Wells (On-shore) in NELP-VIII Block CB-ONN-2009/4 in Western Basin in Vadodara, District Gandhinagar, Gujarat by M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL)– Amendment in Environmental Clearance reg.	Gujarat	24.12.2014
14	Development Drilling of 18 Wells at West Godavari and Krishna Districts, Andhra Pradesh by M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) -Environmental Clearance reg.	Andhra Pradesh	25.11.2014
15	Exploration Drilling of 103 wells in 30 Blocks or Western On-shore Basin, District Mehsana&Patan, Gujarat by M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL) - Environmental Clearance reg.	Gujarat	25.11.2014
16	Drilling of 350 Development Wells of M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL) in Mehsana Asset in District Mehsana, Patan, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat – Environmental clearance reg.	Gujarat	26.11.204
17	Captive Power Plant with installed steam & power capacity of 880 TPH & 195 MW of M/s ONGC Petro Addition Ltd. (OPaL) at Dahej Petrochemical Complex, Village Ambhetha, Taluka Vagra, district Bharuch, Gujarat	Gujarat	03.07.2014
18	Exploratory & Development Drilling of 8 wells of M/s ONGC, in Khubal Discovery Block AA-ONN-2001/1, East Tripura, District North Agartala, Tripura (EC)	Tripura	23.07.2014
19	Explr. Drilling (2 wells) of M/s ONGC in Purnea Basin, West Bengal Onshore Block PA-ONN-2005/2 under NELP-VII (EC)	West Bengal	23.07.2014
20	Exploratory Drilling in Anadaman (offshore) Blocks AN-DWN-2009/1, AN-DWN-2009/3 & AN/DWN-2009/5 under NELP-VIII of M/s ONGC Ltd. in Andaman Offshore (EC)	Andaman	23.07.2014
21	Eight Expl. Drilling Well of M/s ONGC in NELP-VI Block KG-OSN-2004/1, KG Offshore, A.P. (EC)	Andhra Pradesh	23.07.2014
22	Exploratory Drilling of additional 10 wells of M/s ONGC, in Onshore NELP-IV Block CY-ONN-2002/2, Cauvery Basin, TN (EC)	TamilNadu	23.07.2014
23	Exploratory Drilling (6 wells) of M/s ONGC in Bengal Onshore Block WB-ONN-2005/4, West Bengal under NELP-VII in 4 districts of 24 Parganas (N), Nadi, Burdwan and Hooghly, W.B. (EC)	West Bengal	26.05.2014
24	Exploratory drilling of 67 wells in 23 Blocks of Western Onshore Basin of M/s Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. , Baroda, Gujarat (EC)	Gujarat	26.05.2014

B List of Projects awaiting for Environmental Clearance/Forest Clearance/Coastal Regulation Zone

S.N.	Subject	Date of submission of application	State	Status
1	Exploratory Drilling of 35 Wells in L-1 PML, Kuthalam PML, Kali & Greater Kali PML, Bhuvangiri PML and Neyveli PML in Cauvery Basin, Tamilnadu by M/s ONGC	31 May 2015	Tamil Nadu	Considered in the 40 th EAC (I) during 18 th – 19 th May, 2015. The Committee recommended the proposal for grant of EC. Proposal is under process.
2	Development Drilling of 40 wells at East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna District Andhra Pradesh	30 Apr 2015	Andhra Pradesh	Considered in the 38 th EAC (I) during 20 th – 21 st April, 2015. The Committee recommended the proposal for grant of EC. The proposal is under submission.
3	Development drilling of 45 wells at Block KG-DWN-98/2, KG offshore, Tehsil Allavaram, A.P	27 Feb 2015	Andhra Pradesh	Considered in the 42 nd EAC (I) during 16-17 th June, 2015. The Committee recommended the proposal for grant of EC. File is under submission.
5	Exploratory Drilling of 10 Wells in NELP-VI, Onshore Block CY-ONN-2004/2 in Ariyalur District, Tamil Nadu by M/s ONGC	01 May 2015	Tamil Nadu	Considered in the 42 nd EAC (I) during 16-17 th June, 2015. The Committee recommended the proposal for grant of EC. Proposal is under process.
6	Exploratory drilling (9 wells) in Pre-NELP Block AA-ONJ/2 at district Cachar, Assam by M/s ONGC Ltd.	09 Jan 2015	Assam	Considered in the 38 th EAC (I) during 20 th – 21 st April, 2015. The Committee recommended the proposal for grant of EC. Stage-I forest clearance is awaited.
7	Development Drilling in 3 onshore Wells in Khoraghat Extension ML Block KHDD, KHDF	10 th September, 2014	Assam	EAC recommended the proposal on 29 th – 30 th October, 2014. Stage-I forest

	&KHDE, Assam by M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGCL) – Environmental Clearance reg.			clearance is awaited.
8	Development of Vashishta and S-1 fields of K.G. offshore, Eastern Offshore Asset at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh and expansion of Odalarevu Onshore Terminal, A.P. by M/s Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL) - Environmental Clearance reg.	11 th February, 2014	Andhra Pradesh	EAC recommended the proposal on 23 rd -24 th June, 2014. Stage-I forest clearance is awaited.
	Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ)			
9	CRZ Clearance for rerouting of exposed pipeline of 42" south Basin Hazira Trunkline (SBHT) as permanent remedial measures by M/s ONGC Ltd		Gujarat	The proposal was considered by EAC in its meeting held during 19 th – 21 st May, 2015 and recommended for clearance. File under process

