

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1245
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023**

HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECTS

1245. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:

**Will the Minister of POWER
be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that the ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining in ecologically sensitive areas does not affect hydel projects;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes that incidental mining and quarrying in the early stages of hydel projects and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs) should be exempted to enable construction of water conductor systems and underground power houses and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether it is also true that the Government proposes to include a new clause in the notification permitting the construction of transmission lines associated with the hydro electric projects and PSPs; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) : Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs) commence construction after the grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) based on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies. During the EIA studies, all ecological aspects including availability of nearby demarcated/designated quarries are properly examined. The construction of HEPs approved with demarcated/designated quarries does not get affected unless there is subsequent ban on these quarries, which may delay the project and affect its viability.

(b) : As per information received from MoEF&CC, no such proposal is under consideration in their Ministry.

(c) & (d): Laying down of the transmission line does not attract the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended, hence no prior Environmental Clearance is required for laying of transmission line of Hydro-electric Project (HEP)/Pumped Storage Project (PSP). However, it requires Forest Clearance (FC) under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
