

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 1**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

**Environmental Impact Assessment of Ken-Betwa River Link Project**

\*1. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:

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

- (a) the present status of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report under the Ken–Betwa River Link Project, including its observations regarding the impact on local biodiversity, forest cover and water resources;
- (b) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to mitigate, prevent or offset any potential ecological damage arising therefrom;
- (c) the details of the corrective and compensatory measures undertaken to address environmental degradation caused by mining activities in the Jhansi and Lalitpur districts, along with particulars of afforestation drives, soil and water conservation programmes, rehabilitation of affected sites; and
- (d) the details of the monitoring mechanisms established to ensure strict compliance with environmental norms along with the expected time-frame for achieving effective ecological restoration in the said districts?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

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

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 1 FOR ANSWER ON 01.12.2025 RAISED BY SHRI ANURAG SHARMA REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF KEN-BETWA RIVER LINK PROJECT**

**(a) and (b)** The Ken–Betwa Link Project, declared a National Project, is the first inter-basin river-linking initiative under India’s National Perspective Plan, which has entered in the implementation phase. It aims to transfer surplus water of Ken basin to water deficit Betwa basin. Based upon the comprehensive appraisal of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) reports by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)/State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), the Environmental Clearances (ECs) were accorded by the Ministry, under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006, to Ken-Betwa Link Project Phase-I at Village Daudhan, Tehsil Bijawar, District Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh on 25.08.2017 and Bina Complex Multipurpose Project (32MW) at Village Chakarpur, Tehsil Sagar, District Sagar in Madhya Pradesh on 22.02.2017. Further, EC was accorded by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Madhya Pradesh to Kotha Barrage major irrigation project at Village Kotha, Tehsil Kurwai, District Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh on 21.08.2020.

The project benefits include provision of annual irrigation facility to 10.62 lakh ha area, 194 MCM drinking water supply to a population of 62 Lakh and 103 MW Hydropower and 27 MW Solar power generation, benefitting 10 districts in Madhya Pradesh and 4 districts in Uttar Pradesh.

The EIA reports, inter alia, deals with the impacts of the project on local biodiversity, forest cover and water resources include, impacts on biodiversity within and around the Panna Tiger Reserve, impact on riverine and riparian habitats, wildlife corridors, submergence of forest and non-forest land, hydrological changes, downstream ecological flow requirements, muck generation and excavation of construction material, alterations in physical, abiotic and biotic parameters both in upstream and downstream direction of the proposed barrage etc.

Various mitigation measures have been recommended while granting Environmental Clearance (EC) as well as approval under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Wildlife Clearance to the projects. The outlay for implementation of mitigation

measures under the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Ken–Betwa Link Project Phase-I, Ken–Betwa Link Project Phase-II (Bina Complex Multipurpose Project) and Ken–Betwa Link Project Phase-II (Kotha Barrage Major Irrigation Project) has been kept as Rs. 5,073 Crores, Rs. 1735.05 Crores and Rs. 164.12 Crores respectively. The components of EMP, inter-alia, include expenditure related to Catchment area treatment plan (CAT) plan, reservoir rim treatment plan, afforestation, erosion control by engineering/mechanical measures, muck and silt management, command area management, habitat improvement in Panna Tiger Reserve, conservation of endangered species, monitoring of microclimatic conditions for habitat improvement, Fisheries conservation and development, surface and ground water management, periodic soil health analysis, green belt development, pollution control measures in air and water, energy conservation measures and environmental monitoring etc.

**(c) and (d)** All Mining projects require prior Environmental Clearance (EC) under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended. The powers to grant EC for minor mineral projects including River-Bed Sand/Morrum Mining and Khanda-Boulder/Gitti-Ballast Mining projects in Jhansi and Lalitpur districts, are vested with State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

Stringent environmental safeguard conditions recommended by the domain area experts to ensure environmental protection, ecological restoration and rehabilitation of affected sites are stipulated for mining projects including mining projects in Jhansi and Lalitpur districts. These conditions, inter-alia, include development of greenbelt in the mining leases and its maintenance, construction and maintenance of haul roads, use of water sprinklers for dust suppression, condition for protection of surface and groundwater resources, regulated blasting whenever necessary, adoption of controlled-blasting techniques, installation of acoustic enclosures for equipment, etc. The EC also stipulates conditions for protection of scheduled species and ecological safeguards, scientific handling of overburden (OB) and waste rock, including their placement in designated and stabilized dumps with proper terracing, slope protection, grassing and vegetative cover etc. The project proponents are also required to carry out plantation under the campaign "Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam" in the stipulated green belt. Projects proponents are further required to obtain Forest Clearance if forest land is involved in any mining project. Compensatory afforestation has to be done by the project proponent as a part of Forest Clearance.

Six-monthly compliance reports with respect to Environmental Clearance conditions has to be mandatorily submitted by the project proponent. Further, mining leases are subject to Consent to Operate (CTO) issued by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The compliance of environmental safeguard conditions stipulated in the EC, conditions of the CTO issued by SPCB are monitored by the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry and SPCB through regular site inspection and surprise visit. In case of non-compliance, appropriate action is taken including show-cause notice, revocation of EC as per the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 against the project authorities.

The mining projects are required to implement Progressive and Final Mine Closure Plans approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines/ State Directorate of Mineral and Geology, as per Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 and Mineral Concession Rules under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (as amended), which prescribe measures for ecological restoration by undertaking activities like backfilling, land reclamation, re-grassing and restoration of mined-out area.

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