

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:215
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
ATHIRAPPALLY HYDRO POWER PROJECTS
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding the Athirappally hydro-electric project in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (c) the time by which the said hydro-power project is likely to be accorded clearance?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) The Government is in receipt of several representations against Athirappally hydroelectric project in Kerala. The main contention in these representations against the project is threat to the habitation of Primitive Kadar Tribes and adverse impact on Biodiversity in the region. A show-cause notice under Section-5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to project proponent i.e. Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) was issued seeking their reply.

The reply received from KSEB was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and in-line with recommendations of the EAC, the matter was referred to the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) and subsequently to High Level Working Group (HLWG) headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan. The project has been restored back to Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) for revising the project report incorporating the necessary compliance on observations made by High Level Working Group.