

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1498**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

**"Environmental norms in road construction projects in Himalayas"**

1498 SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:

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

- (a) rules/provisions for giving clearances to road construction projects in the Himalayan region;
- (b) whether Ministry is cognizant of the 2013 report on flash floods in Uttarakhand by National Institute of Disaster Management which finds road construction a major factor for landslides in the region;
- (c) the details of safeguards the Ministry has incorporated on giving clearances to road construction projects in the Himalayas, keeping geological, geomorphological, ecological and drainage aspects into consideration; and
- (d) the details of road construction projects approved by the Ministry in the Himalayan region without considering their impact on drainage, since 2014?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 mandates the requirement of prior environmental clearance (EC) for the projects/activities listed in the schedule to the Notification. The Highway projects including in the Himalayan region are covered under item 7(f) of the schedule. For Category A Projects, the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the regulatory authority and for Category B Projects, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has been vested with the responsibility.

The clearance process as per the EIA notification entails four stages, namely (i) Screening, (ii) Scoping, (iii) Public Consultation, and (iv) Appraisal of the Project by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) or the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), as the case may be..

(b) As per the India Disaster Report, 2013 of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), the disaster in Uttarakhand occurred primarily due to widespread heavy rains during the period 14-18 June, 2013 which resulted in flash floods in all the major river valleys of the State. Heavy rains triggered major landslides at numerous locations causing severe disruption in surface communications.

(c) & (d) All project proposals undergo appraisal from environmental angle covering geological, geomorphological, ecological and drainage aspects. Clearances to the project proposals are granted on the basis of recommendations of the EAC/SEAC after incorporating requisite environmental safeguards as specific and general conditions.

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