

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 683
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

EIA study for environment clearance to redevelop South Delhi

683. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) whether any Environment Impact Assessment study was carried out before granting clearance to NBCC to fell 16,500 trees for redevelopment of South Delhi areas, as Delhi suffers from some of the worst air pollution in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for granting the same despite hazardous air quality in Delhi; and
- (c) efforts that were proposed and conditions imposed to replenish the lost green cover, if such clearance for felling trees was indeed granted?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) accords prior environmental clearance for projects or activities listed in the Schedule to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 (and its amendments) after having followed the prescribed process in the said notification. The Ministry after having followed the prescribed process in the EIA Notification, 2006 has granted environmental clearance to the re-development of general pool residential colonies at Netaji Nagar, Nauroji Nagar and Sarojini Nagar in favour of M/s NBCC India Limited, subject to stipulation of various environmental safeguards in terms of the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Environmental Clearances are granted with specific stringent conditions which are both project specific and general in nature as well as mitigative measures in accordance with the Environment Management Plan Report which is prepared on the basis of the study and are to be complied with by the project proponents. The compliance of these conditions is strictly assessed / evaluated / monitored by the concerned authorities at the State and Central level.

Permission for cutting/felling of trees is under the jurisdiction of State Forest Department and NOC/permission before felling of trees is required to be obtained from them under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.

In order to protect the environment, different conditions were stipulated in the environmental clearances issued to these projects which inter-alia includes:

- The project proponent shall obtain all necessary clearance/ permission from all relevant agencies including town planning authority before commencement of work. All the construction shall be done in accordance with the local building byelaws.
- The project proponent shall obtain necessary clearance/ permission from concerned authority before felling any tree.
- The project proponent should comply with the directions given by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide its Order dated 4th September, 2017 in the matter of OA No. 553 of 2016 and Order dated 22nd September, 2017 in the matter of MA No. 1154 of 2017 in OA No. 553 of 2016.
- A minimum of 1 tree for every 80 sqm of land should be planted and maintained. The existing trees will be counted for this purpose. Preference should be given to planting native species. Where the trees need to be cut, compensatory plantation in the ratio of 1:10 (i.e. planting of 10 trees for every 1 tree that is cut) shall be done and maintained in compliance with the directions given by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide its Order dated 4th September, 2017 in the matter of OA No. 553 of 2016.
