

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4043
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 07.04.2022

Environmental clearance for public transport projects

4043. DR. V. SIVADASAN:

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

- (a) the measures taken by Government to reduce the pollution caused by vehicles;
- (b) whether any measures or campaigns have been taken by Government to encourage the travel by public transport system;
- (c) whether environmental clearance is required for the implementation of public transport projects;
- (d) whether environmental clearance is exempted for the implementation of railway projects; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b)

The Central Government has taken several measures to reduce pollution caused by vehicles which *inter alia* include:

- (i) Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles since April, 2020.
- (ii) Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- (iii) Roll-out of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 scheme.
- (iv) Vehicle Scrapping Policy for creation of an ecosystem to phase out older, unfit polluting vehicles.
- (v) Enhancement of Metro rails network for public transport.
- (vi) Development of Expressways and Highways.
- (vii) Exemption of electric vehicles from permit requirement.
- (viii) Promotion of public transport, improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.

Also, the Central Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to improve air quality across the country. Under NCAP, City-specific Action Plans (CAPs) have been put in place in 132 non-attainment cities. These CAPs include the steps to reduce the pollution caused by vehicles.

A number of campaign and awareness generation programme have been organised regarding bringing improvement in air quality. These programme viz. Clean Air for Delhi Campaign; Switch Delhi Campaign; 'Swachh Pawan, Neel Gagan'-International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies etc.include awareness on reducing pollution from vehicles also.

(c) to (e)

As far as Infra-2 sector is concerned, public transport systems namely Airports and Aerial Ropeways come under the purview of EIA Notification, 2006. In addition, in case of public transport associated infrastructures namely Bus terminal, Railway stations and Metro stations, where the authorities allot land to private builders & developers to build a shopping mall along with Bus terminal, Railway station and Metro Stations and the built up area of such activity is more than 20,000 sqm, obtaining prior Environment Clearance (EC) under schedule 8a (Building and Construction projects) of EIA Notification, 2006 is mandatory.

As per EIA notification, 2006, Railways and Metro Rail projects are exempted from obtaining prior EC with reference to O.M. dated 02.07.2009. Copy of the O.M. attached as Annexure.

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F.No.14-22/2009-IA.III
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
IA Division

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Dated: 2nd June, 2009.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Kochi Metro Rail Project - Draft Note for Cabinet - Reg.

Kindly refer to your letter No.K-14011/37/2005-Metro, dated 22nd May, 2009 on the above subject. The comments of this Ministry on the draft Cabinet Note, are as under:

The Ministry of Environment & Forests do not have any objection on the proposed draft Cabinet Note. The Metro Projects are not required to seek Environmental Clearance under EIA Notification. However, the following measures should be taken to avoid any adverse impact on the environment:

- (i) The noise generated by (Metro train) brakes, horn, public address system at Metro stations etc. should be designed in such a way that it would not have incremental effect on the existing noise levels especially in silence zones and residential areas.
- (ii) While developing Metro station and associated facilities, the concept of green building may be followed to the extent possible specially in terms of energy and water conservation.
- (iii) Sewage generated at Metro stations, yards, residential colony and labour camps shall be collected and transported to the nearest STP through municipal sewer. If municipal sewer line is not available, a separate STP should be constructed.
- (iv) A lot of good quality ground water is drained out as a necessary evil while tunneling or driving piles for Metro work. Metro Authorities should make efforts for rain water harvesting at Metro stations and along the tracks.
- (v) If Metro Authorities allot land to private builders & developers to build shopping malls along with the metro stations as a part of the property development and if the total built up area of the project is more than 20,000 sq.m., then necessary

Environmental Clearance shall be obtained under EIA Notification 2006, before the start of the construction work as these building projects will have the similar environmental issues as other building projects like water requirement, sewage generation, use of treated waste water, solid waste generation and disposal, energy consumption, and traffic and transport including parking, etc. These projects should also follow the guidelines as other building projects because they have major environmental consequences.

- (vi) If, during the construction of Metro or property development, there is a requirement for cutting of trees, loss of green cover, the compensatory afforestation should be undertaken by the Metro Authorities/property developers after obtaining prior permission.



(Bharat Bhushan)

Director

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02.06.2008

✓ The Under Secretary,
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