

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 201
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022

Improper clearance of coastal projects

201. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

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

- (a) whether Adani Petro Port in the State of Gujarat and some other coastal projects were approved without adequate checks and balances through the use of old data and inadequate Environmental Impact Assessment;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) if not, the reasons for which these approvals were flagged by the CAG's report in August 2022;
- (d) whether Government is monitoring the construction activities, waste discharge and other activities in the Coastal Regulation Zones around these projects; and
- (e) if so, the reasons why reports of illegal activities are still forthcoming?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report along with Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is a prime requirement for the grant of prior environmental clearance for the projects and/or activities listed in the Schedule of EIA Notification, 2006. The process of prior Environmental Clearance involves rigorous examination at different stages such as screening, scoping, public consultation and appraisal. A detailed scrutiny of the EIA/EMP report takes place during the appraisal of the project by an independent Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) having experts from the field of science and engineering. While examining the proposals related to coastal projects in the Ministry, all necessary due diligence is observed as mandated under the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended, including examination of the State Coastal Zone Management Authority (SCZMA) recommendations. Accordingly, due diligence is carried out by the EAC in respect of all coastal projects including the project in question as per the provision of EIA notification, 2006 as amended.

Further, vide Office Memorandum (OM) dated 29th August 2017, superseded by OM dated 8th June, 2022; Ministry in order to bring absolute uniformity in handling the proposals, has clarified that baseline data used for preparation of EIA/EMP reports may be collected at any

stage of the EC process or even before the grant of ToR. The baseline data shall not be more than three years old at the time of submission of application for consideration of EC.

(c) to (e) CAG in its report on “Conservation of Costal Ecosystem” has examined the regulatory and administrative framework for costal ecosystem and have made certain recommendations in relation thereto. Further, Ministry has been taking series of action under para 10 of EIA Notification, 2006 and various sections of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to monitor and enforce strict adherence to EC norms. The Ministry along with its nineteen (19) Regional Offices has been taking action regularly in respect of non-compliances under various provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
