

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2602
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 23.03.2023

Exemption of key developmental works from environmental clearances

2602 SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that many developmental projects in States, such as, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, have been delayed due to environmental clearances from State Forest Departments and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;
- (b) if so, the number of developmental projects, especially railway projects, awaiting environmental clearances in the country, State-wise; and?
- (c) whether Government, in consultation with the State Governments, proposes to exempt key developmental works from environmental clearance, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which deals with the process of granting Environmental Clearance (EC). There are 37 categories of projects/activities stated in the schedule of the Notification which require prior environmental clearance including the developmental projects such as Road/Highways, Thermal Power Plants, River Valleys, Airports, Ports and Harbour and Industrial Estate, etc. Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 2006 has decentralized the environmental clearance process by categorizing the developmental projects in two categories, i.e., Category 'A' and Category 'B'. The 'Category 'A' projects are appraised at Central level by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and Category 'B' projects are appraised at State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC). State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) are constituted to provide clearance to Category B process.

As per information available on PARIVESH Portal on 17th March 2023, seven developmental projects are at various stages of consideration in the Ministry for grant of EC as per provisions of EIA Notification, 2006. Out of these, 3 projects are related to Highways, 1 project is related to Airport, 1 project is related to Industrial estate and 2 projects are related to Thermal power plants. Out of seven projects, 03 proposals belong to the State of

Karnataka, 02 proposals belong to the State of Madhya Pradesh and 02 proposals belong to the State of Uttar Pradesh. Environmental clearance is not required for the Railway projects under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006. Through recent notifications dated 14.07.2022 and 27.04.2022 projects related to Highway up to 100 km from line of control or border and Aerial Ropeways, respectively, have been exempted from the requirement of EC subject to adherence to environmental safeguards.
