

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3878
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023

Review of prevailing exemption from environmental and social impact assessment

3878. SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:

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

- (a) whether, in light of the direction of the National Green Tribunal to Ministry to review the exemption in its 27.08.2014 decision in Application 6/2013 c/w Application 12/2013 (Leo F. Saldanha and Environment Support Group vs. MoEF, and ors.), which decision was affirmed by the Supreme Court on 31.07.2015, Government intends to review the prevailing exemption from environmental and social impact review that utility scale renewable energy projects such as mega solar parks enjoy; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) The applicability of the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 for setting up projects of Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) Power Projects, Solar Thermal Power Plants and Development of Solar Parks has been examined in the Ministry. Accordingly, vide OM dated 7th July 2017, it has been clarified that the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 is not applicable to the above projects subject to such projects following the environmental and statutory stipulations made in the O.M. dated 30th June 2011.

It was also clarified that the disposal of Photo Voltaic Cells attracts the provisions of the Hazardous and Other Waste (Management and Trans-Boundary Movement) Rules, 2016. Further the development of Solar Parks shall also attract the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
