

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 732
ANSWERED ON- 08/02/2023

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF HIGH ALTITUDE ROAD PROJECTS

732. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has amended the EIA Notification, 2006 to exempt Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) clearance for certain categories of road projects;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) reasons and objective for such an amendment;
- (d) whether Government is aware that bypassing of Environmental Impact Assessment by segmentation of road projects destroys the ecology of the region and is against the established judicial principles in the country; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) vide amendment Notification S.O.3194(E) dt 14.07.2022 exempted the applicability of prior environment clearance as per EIA Notification, 2006 & its amendment for **“Highway Projects related to defence and strategic importance in border States.”**

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has earlier issued an amendment Notification S.O.2559(E) dt 22.08.2013 in respect of widening of National Highways. As per the said Notification, prior Environmental Clearance (EC) is required for National Highways widening projects only where both the following conditions are fulfilled :

Expansion of National Highways greater than 100 Km involving additional right of way or land acquisition greater than 40 m on existing alignments and 60 m on re-alignments or bypasses.

(c) The development of existing National Highways with acquisition of marginal strip of land either on one side (eccentric widening) or on both sides (concentric widening) is likely to cause only marginal impact on environment. The other applicable clearances under the respective Acts are safeguard for sustainable development.

(d) & (e) Project stretches for National Highways development are taken up depending on type of development required, features of the project stretch, completion of DPR, traffic levels, size of packages to attract competitive bids etc., duly incorporating provisions for protection of Environment/ Ecology based on principles of sustainable development. All other applicable statutory clearances & No Objection Certificates (NOCs) are obtained during execution of the project as per respective Acts.
