

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1027
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Environmental Clearance for industrial projects in Odisha

1027. SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ:

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

- (a) whether any industrial projects in Odisha have been delayed due to pending environmental clearance;
- (b) if so, the details of such projects, including their current status and reasons for delay;
- (c) whether steps have been taken to streamline the process for granting environmental clearances; and
- (d) the measures adopted to ensure minimal environmental impact while expediting project approvals?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) As per the provisions laid down in the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended, the proposals are appraised by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) or State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) considering all the environmental implications involved in the project including the issues raised in Public Consultation. Based on the recommendation of the EAC/SEAC, projects are further considered by the Ministry or State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for approval for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) or otherwise.

As per information available on PARIVESH Portal, retrieved on 10.02.2025, a total 05 and 12 EC proposals relating to the Industrial projects of Odisha have been submitted with the Ministry and SEIAA, respectively. As per the provisions stated above, ECs are granted after considering environmental issues and incorporation of appropriate environmental safeguards including mitigatory measures as prescribed in the Environment Management Plan (EMP).

To streamline the process for granting environmental clearance, Ministry in recent past have undertaken many systemic reforms both through the technological intervention, upgrading the PARIVESH, a Single Window Portal providing end to end online solution and recent amendments in the EIA Notification 2006 such as delegating powers to SEIAAs for mining, irrigation, and power projects, standardizing Terms of Reference (ToR), increasing the validity of ToR/EC, allowing flexibility in baseline data collection before ToR approval, and reforms in Public Hearings. Aforementioned reforms especially paperless governance in clearance management through PARIVESH have ensured that development proceed with robust environmental safeguards, contributing to sustainable development by reducing the time taken for grant of clearances, enhancing efficiency and transparency in environmental clearance management.
