

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1642
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Status and delays in environmental clearances

1642. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether many major infrastructure projects in Maharashtra are currently pending environmental clearance from the Central Government, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in clearing nearly 30 plus proposals;
- (c) the steps being taken to expedite the approval process for these projects;
- (d) whether Government has set any timeline for clearing pending proposals; and
- (e) whether Government plans to grant more authority to Maharashtra's State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) to speed up approvals?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The Government of India has issued Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 under the powers conferred by sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. 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 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 expedite the process for grant of Environment Clearance, Ministry in the recent past had undertaken many systemic reforms both through the technological intervention by upgrading the PARIVESH, a Single Window Portal providing end to end online solution and recent amendments in the EIA Notification 2006 such as 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 enhancing efficiency and transparency in

environmental clearance management alongwith maintaining the stipulated timeline of 105 days for grant of EC in the EIA Notification, 2006 and as amended thereof.

Further, for expeditious disposal of the project proposals at State level, Ministry vide Notification dated 10th June 2024 constituted State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and three dedicated State Expert Appraisal Committees (SEAC) for the state of Maharashtra.

As per information available on PARIVESH Portal, retrieved on 06.03.2025, no infrastructure projects are pending at the Central level beyond the prescribed timeline. However, 145 proposals relating to the Building Construction/Township and Area Development projects of Maharashtra have been submitted at the Central level due to the ex-parte stay imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on Ministry's Notification dated 29th January 2025.
