

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2126
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025

Environmental clearances for projects in Odisha

2126. SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ:

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

- (a) the number of industrial, mining and infrastructure projects from Odisha pending environmental clearance, as on date;
- (b) the reasons for delay in granting clearances to such projects;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to expedite environmental clearance processes for States such as Odisha with high mineral dependency; and
- (d) the measures being adopted to ensure that project approvals do not compromise ecological balance and forest rights of local communities?

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 recommendations of the EAC/SEAC, projects are further considered by the Ministry or State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for approval and grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) or otherwise. As per information available on PARIVESH Portal, retrieved on 12.12.2025, a total 02 and 125 EC proposals relating to the industrial, mining and infrastructure projects of Odisha have been submitted to 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) in accordance with the procedure laid down in EIA Notification, 2006, as amended.

To streamline the environmental clearance process, the Ministry has recently undertaken several systemic reforms. These include major technological interventions particularly the upgrading of PARIVESH, the single-window portal that enables end-to-end online submission, processing, and compliance reporting and key amendments to the EIA Notification, 2006, such as delegating powers to SEIAAs, standardizing Terms of Reference (ToR), enhancing EC validity, permitting baseline data collection prior to ToR approval, and rationalizing public hearing procedures. Special provisions have been introduced to fast-track

projects involving Critical, Strategic, and Atomic Minerals including exemption from public consultation. Further, expeditious consideration of underground coal mining projects on out of turn basis has also been permitted.

The Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 clearly provide that the State Governments or Union Territory Administrations, after having obtained the Stage-II approval of the Central Government, need to ensure fulfilment and compliance of all the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and any rules made thereunder, before issuing order for diversion, assignment of lease or de-reservation, as the case may be.

The aforesaid reforms, particularly the adoption of paperless governance in clearance management through PARIVESH, have ensured that development progresses with robust environmental safeguards, thereby promoting sustainable growth without compromising ecological balance or the forest rights of local communities.
