

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2143
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025

Exemptions from EIA process

2143. SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

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

- (a) the reasons for exempting projects of several categories from requirement of prior Environmental Clearance (EC) and full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process;
- (b) manner in which Government proposes to ensure adequate environmental and social safeguards for such projects particularly where such projects affect ecologically sensitive areas or local communities;
- (c) the details of plans to ensure that the new draft rules do not create a regulatory loophole that incentivizes environmental non-compliance or undermines the polluter pays principle; and
- (d) the steps taken to extend the time period available for public review of draft EIA reports?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) In view of the dynamic nature of environment management, taking into account the stabilization of technologies, advent of new technologies, development of standard procedures, the Central Government from time to time exempts certain activities from the requirement of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and prior EC subject to implementation of stringent environmental safeguards after scientific and technological examination by Experts in the field. These safeguards are included in the Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate conditions, so as to enable the State Pollution Control Boards or Union Territory Pollution Control Committees to ensure compliance of these safeguards before the Project/Activity is set up and also during the operation of the project. Exemptions are provided after following the due process provided in the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, such as seeking public comments on the proposed exemption within a period of sixty days. All the comments and suggestions provided by the stakeholders and/or general public are taken into consideration before the final exemptions are granted. As per the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006, as amended, a period of thirty days is provided to the general public to provide their comments on the draft EIA Reports.
