

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2937
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

Monitoring of environmental compliance in Odisha

2937. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

- (a) the number of projects in Odisha granted environmental clearance during the last five years;
- (b) the number of compliance inspections conducted and violations detected;
- (c) the action taken for non-compliance with environmental clearance conditions; and
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes to strengthen independent environmental compliance monitoring in the State?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) : During the Financial Years 2021–22 to 2025–26, a total of 1703 projects relating to the State of Odisha were granted Environmental Clearance (EC) by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). As per the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, it is mandatory for Project Proponents to submit half-yearly compliance reports on the stipulated environmental clearance conditions to the concerned regulatory authority. Moreover, the submission of such compliance reports has been made digital, and all Project Proponents are required to submit all such compliance reports online through the PARIVESH portal.

The Ministry, through its Regional Offices, undertakes post-Environmental Clearance (EC) monitoring and compliance verification of projects granted Environmental Clearance. Cases of environmental non-compliance are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Sections 5, 15 and 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, read with Rule 4 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. The implementation of these provisions is guided by the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) established vide Office Memorandum dated 25.11.2022 for post-environmental clearance monitoring and compliance of projects, which prescribes the mechanism for taking action with respect to the observed non-compliance. As per the SoP, upon receipt of an inspection report from the concerned Regional Office indicating non-compliance, an Action Taken Report (ATR) is sought on the non-compliances reported in the inspection report from the Project Proponent. Where satisfactory corrective measures are not taken by the Project Proponent, further action, including issuance of a Show Cause Notice (SCN), personal hearing, re-verification of compliance and concluding action is taken by the competent authority.

During the period, a total of 303 inspections of Category 'A' and Category 'B' projects/activities located in the State of Odisha were carried out by the Regional Office of the Ministry. Based on the findings of these inspections, necessary action is initiated in all cases where instances of non-compliance are observed. Further, Show Cause Notices (SCNs) have been issued in 37 cases. In addition, the State Pollution Control Board, Odisha, also undertakes inspections and takes appropriate action to ensure compliance with the Environmental Clearance (EC)/Consent to Operate (CTO), as per the prescribed procedure. Further, with the objective of strengthening transparency and accountability in environmental compliance, the Ministry has, inter alia, notified the Environment Audit Rules, 2025. The Rules provide for the creation of a cadre of certified third-party Environment Auditors to undertake on-site verification/audit work for ascertaining environmental compliance under various environmental regulations and rules.
