

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1458
ANSWERED ON 26TH JULY, 2018

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

1458. SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
सडक परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Highway projects have been/are being delayed due to late submission of Ecological Impact Assessments (EIA), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has drawn any mechanism to speed up the process and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether several NH projects have been shelved for want of environmental clearance and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (d) No project is delayed at present due to late submission of Ecological Impact Assessments (EIA). Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a part of the project preparation. The process of EIA starts with the feasibility studies and culminated with preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR). In order to avoid unnecessary delays in environment related clearances, the persistent pursuance is done with the Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The process of environment clearances has been streamlined by MoEF&CC by taking important decisions as given below:

- Process of environment clearance and forest clearance was delinked by MoEF&CC facilitating parallel processing of clearance proposals.
- The requirement of specific Term of References for highway widening projects has already been dispensed with.
- The threshold for triggering the requirement of environment clearance has been relaxed up to the limit of 100 km length. In addition, above this length, projects requiring additional land acquisition up to 40 m for widening and up to 60 m on the realignments are also exempted.
- MOEF&CC has delegated the powers for linear projects to Regional Empowered Committees (RECs).
