

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1841
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2023

Environment Impact Assessment
Garden City of Bengaluru

1841. SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:

SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:

SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government has urged Legislators and Policy Experts to ensure that Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies are done before giving the green signal for urban development projects in the country as haphazard urban development has ruined the 'Garden City' of Bengaluru as witnessed during a major spell of rain in September 2022 and also in some other States/towns/cities in the last ten years, year-wise; and

(b) if so, the details of such reports prepared/implementation of recommendations received and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has prescribed environment impact assessment studies for urban development projects as per Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as amended. This Notification covers 38 projects which *inter alia* include different types of infrastructure projects such as Airports, Ports, Highways, and Building & Construction Projects as specified in the schedule of the said notification. All such projects (new or expansion) shall require prior environmental clearance from the concerned regulatory authority, e.g., MoEF&CC and the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) on the recommendation of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and State Environment Appraisal Committee (SEAC) as the case may be.

State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Karnataka is the regulatory authority for granting environmental clearance to all such projects on the State including

Bengaluru city. SEAC, Karnataka appraises the projects based on Environment Impact Assessment/Environment Management Plan studies carried out for such projects. On the recommendation of SEAC, the SEIAA grants Environmental Clearance following due procedure as per the said notification.

In order to expedite the environment clearance process, a number of steps have been taken by the Union Government, which includes following:

- i. MoEF&CC has launched a single window online PARIVESH portal which automates the entire process of environment clearance starting from submission of application, preparation of agenda, and preparation of minutes to grant of clearances.
- ii. MoEF&CC has taken various initiatives towards necessary amendments in the policies, and regulations to ensure transparent and simplified process of environment clearance without compromising on rigor of the environmental concerns.
