

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5278
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

Shortage of Officials for Field Verification

5278. SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:

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

- (a) whether there is huge shortage of officials for field verification under green laws in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether large number of projects are pending before the Ministry for environment and forest clearances during the last five years due to shortage of officials and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether officials deputed for field verification under green laws are overburdened who are expected to visit thousands of project sites in a year and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to recruit more officials to reduce the burden of present officials and expedite the work related to environment and forest clearance; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to delegate the power of granting forest/environmental clearance of projects to State authorities and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e) The approvals given by the Ministry under different green laws are dynamic process and time taken to grant either prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 depends on various factors and details provided by the user agencies. There are sufficient officials and staff to deal with issues relating to approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and to carry out the necessary field inspections.

The Ministry has increased the number of Integrated Regional Offices (IROs) from 10 to 19 for effective monitoring of compliances of conditions stipulated in the approvals given under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Moreover, the process of approval under said Acts are carried out through PARIVESH on-line web portal which has reduced the time taken in processing of proposals for Environmental Clearance (EC) as well as approvals under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
