

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*357
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022

Environmental Clearance in Sanctuaries/Protected Areas

*357. SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding non-compliance of the rules and regulations for environmental clearance in the forest sanctuaries and other protected areas;
- (b) if so, the details of such complaints received and disposed of at present;
- (c) whether any mechanism is available to oversee the strict implementation of the rules and regulations for according environmental clearances; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 357 to be answered on Monday, the 28th March, 2022 on “Environmental Clearance in Sanctuaries/Protected Areas’ by SHRI NATARAJAN P.R.

(a) to (d) The Integrated Regional Office (IRO) of the Ministry undertakes inspection to review compliance status of Environmental Clearance (EC) conditions, either on their own volition or as part of Joint Committee with respect to violation, including those related to EC, by Projects/Activities or taking cognizance of complaints and Court Orders against Projects/Activities. Monitoring Cell in the Impact Assessment Division of the Ministry looks into the compliance of EC conditions by the Project Proponent.

Central Government lays significant emphasis on implementation of environmental norms and conditions. The Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (EPA) authorizes the Central Government to undertake all the measures for the protection and improvement of environmental quality, control and reduce pollution from all sources, and prohibit or restrict the setting and / or operation of any activity on environmental grounds. While exercising its powers under the EPA, government has framed laws / subordinate legislations with regard to prohibition and restrictions on the location of industries, processes and operations in different areas.

Sector-wise Expert Appraisal Committees (EAC) have been constituted at the Centre and State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) at State level, which ensure detailed scrutiny of the proposal before recommending it for EC to the Ministry at Central level and State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) at state level.
