

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2850
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

Ranking/Incentive for quick Environmental Clearance

2850. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:
SHRI THIRUNAVUKKARASAR SU:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to rank and incentivize the States on the basis of the speed with which they accord Environmental Clearances to developmental projects and if so, the details thereof along with the features thereof;
- (b) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented;
- (c) whether this proposal would dilute green safeguards and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether the said proposal has drawn ire from environmentalists and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the experts had opined that the proposal contravenes basic principles of environmental regulations; and
- (f) whether the rating system seriously limited the State Environmental Impact Assessment Agencies members from exercising their scientific, legal and administrative knowledge?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry has issued an Office Memorandum dated 17th January 2022 regarding criteria/methodology for rating the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) and the same is being implemented through PARIVESH portal of this Ministry.

(c) to (f) The ranking system is completely based on the existing provisions of EIA Notification 2006 and various guidelines issued by Ministry from time to time. The EIA notification clearly provides time-line for completion of different stages involved in the Environment Clearance process, viz. Scoping (Terms of Reference), Public Consultation and Appraisal. The notification also makes it mandatory for SEIAA to convey its decision to the applicant within 45 days of the receipt of recommendations from State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), which, in turn, has been given 60 days' time from receipt of the complete proposal for completing the appraisal of the application.

The aforesaid rating system has been introduced to encourage SEIAAs/ SEACs to ensure time bound appraisal of the projects/activities in an efficient manner without compromising on the environmental safeguards, thus providing an efficient, transparent and accountable framework for the stakeholders.
