

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.4010
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

4010. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether to streamline green clearance process and to speed up key projects the Government has released consultation paper on proposed amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether suggestions sought from stake holders have been received by the Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the projects related to strategic importance including those of defence and security needs are proposed to be exempted from obtaining prior green approval;
- (d) if so, whether stake holders have objected to the exemptions in some fields; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and time by which the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 - is likely to be amended?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e) Based on concerns and suggestions received from State Governments, Union territories, Union Ministries and various organizations, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had sought comments of the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and other stakeholders by circulating a Public Consultation Paper. Besides in Hindi and English languages, the consultation paper was placed in public domain in vernacular languages also. The paper invited views, comments and suggestions from various stakeholders including the State Governments and Union territory Administrations, with a view to incorporate appropriate suggestions in the draft amendment. The proposed amendment is intended to strengthen the efforts of forest conservation and to make the implementation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 more effective.

The Ministry has also written to the Chief Ministers of the State Governments, Administrators/Lt. Governors of the Union Territories and Chief Secretaries of the States and UTs requesting to send comments of their respective Governments/Administrations. More than 5600 comments have been received in the Ministry from various stakeholders, including those in vernacular languages. The comments received are being examined and the further course of action would be taken accordingly as per prescribed procedure.
