

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5098**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2022

**Shortage of Officials for Field Verification**

5098. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:  
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE.

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 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 clearances; 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 the different green laws is a 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 granting Environmental Clearance (EC) approvals from 189 days in 2019 to 75 days during year 2021 and ForestClearance (FC) approvals from 350 days to 188 days in last 7 years.

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