

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2459**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022

**STAR RATING SYSTEM**

2459. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has implemented the star rating system for Environmental Impact Assessment to incentivise State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) to be efficient and time-bound in granting an Environmental Clearance (EC) and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the yardsticks of granting more points to SEIAAs who grant ECs in less than 80 days, may have the unfortunate effect of SEIAAs handing out hasty ECs in the hope of a better star rating and discouraging site visits and seeking essential details for the assessment process?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b): The Ministry issued an Office Memorandum (OM) dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 regarding criteria/methodology for rating the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs). The ranking system is completely based on the existing provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and various guidelines issued by the Ministry from time to time. The rating criteria does not seek to change any process or time-line as already provided in the EIA Notification, 2006. The aforementioned OM does not come in the way of SEIAA carrying out all necessary due diligence before taking any decision regarding any project/activity placed before it. In case of deficiency in proposals, SEIAA/SEAC (State Expert Appraisal Committee) are at a liberty to seek additional information/documents and the period for which the reply is pending with project proponent shall not be counted for calculating the number of days taken by SEIAA/SEAC in arriving at its decision regarding the concerned project/activity.

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