

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2093
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

Weakening Environmental Institutions

2093. SMT. PRATIMA MONDAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government acknowledges the criticism regarding weakening environmental institutions such as the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Central Empowered Committee, if so, the steps taken by the Government to restore their effectiveness and independence; and
- (b) whether the key amendments to the Environment Protection Act, Wildlife Protection Act, and Biological Diversity Act were carried out with public consultation, if not, the reasons therefor and the ways adopted to ensure transparency in future legislative changes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) & (b): National Green Tribunal since its inception i.e. 18.10.2010, has been working for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Government has constituted the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), a permanent authority, in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 18.8.2023 in I.A. Nos 196062 and 174896/2019 in Writ Petitions (Civil) No. 202/95. Both the independent Institutions have been working efficiently and effectively in the discharge of their respective roles and responsibilities.

Further, the amendments to the Environment Protection Act, Wildlife Protection Act, and Biological Diversity Act were carried out following due procedure including consultations with the relevant stakeholders including public, Non-Governmental Organizations, Experts, State Governments, Ministries / Government agencies.
