

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2693
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

Exemption to Industries

2693. SHRI BAJRANG MANOHAR SONWANE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has exempted white category of industries from the requirement of mandatory approval of Environmental Clearance from Central Pollution Control Board with regard to air and water pollution;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether various civil society Organizations and eminent persons have urged the Government to cancel the said exemptions given to white category of industries from the required mandatory approval of Environmental Clearance; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Prior Environmental Clearance (EC) is necessary requirement for projects or activities mentioned under Schedule of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, which may have higher environmental impact. Further, Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) is granted to industries under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, by the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or Pollution Control Committee (PCC).

Central Government has amended Section-21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Section-25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to exempt certain categories of industries from obtaining Consent to Operate (CTO)/Consent to Establish (CTE). Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has exempted 39 sectors, which are classified as White Category by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), from obtaining CTE/CTO under the said Acts subject to certain conditions. Further, MoEF&CC vide O.M. dated 14.11.2024 and 14.01.2025 has issued

Standard Operating Procedure for effective implementation of the said notification by the concerned authorities.

(c) and (d): The draft notification for exemption of Industrial plants having Pollution Index Score up to 20 i.e. white category, were published in Gazette for public consultation of stakeholders vide G.S.R. 425(E) and 421(E), dated 19.07.2024 under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 respectively. The notifications were finalized after taking into consideration all the comments from State Governments, civil society organizations and general public etc.
