

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2446**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

**Establishment of National Environmental Regulator**

2446. SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE:

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

- (a) whether the Government acknowledges that the risk of regulatory capture and conflict of interest in environmental regulatory framework has increased, due to functioning of both project clearance authorities and monitoring agencies under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change;
- (b) if so, the details of institutional reforms or restructuring the Government is considering to address this systemic problem;
- (c) whether the Government is also considering to establish a National Environmental Regulator (NER), as recommended by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Lafarge judgment (2011);
- (d) if so, the details thereof including its proposed structure, jurisdiction and accountability framework;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted an independent assessment of the capacity, technical expertise and human resource adequacy of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA); and
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the deficiencies identified and the corrective measures being undertaken by the Government?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b) : The Environment Clearances (ECs) are granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the Central level and State level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) at the State levels, in accordance with the provisions as laid down in EIA Notification, 2006, as amended. These clearances are granted based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs) at the central level and the State level Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs) at the state level which consist of independent Experts who are appointed after ensuring that there is no-conflict of interest while discharging their duties. The ECs are monitored by the 11 Regional Offices and 8 Sub-Regional Offices of the Ministry, and the State Pollution Control Boards, which are not directly involved in the EC granting process. Further, in order to strengthen the monitoring of compliances of the various statutory

provisions, the Central Government has issued that Environment Audit Rules 2025 for creating a third-party cadre of certified manpower, to undertake on site verification/audit work for ascertaining environmental compliance under various environmental regulations and rules issued by the Central Government or any State Government.

(c) and (d): No Sir. The Government has opined that the existing institutional mechanism of appraising projects for Environmental Clearance may be continued. Alongside, several measures to improve transparency, efficiency and enhance ease of doing business have been undertaken. The projects are granted EC based on the recommendations of the independent Expert Appraisal Committees/ State level Expert Appraisal Committees at both the Central and the State level with the help of a transparent, online web based portal namely PARIVESH [Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-window Hub]. Further the National Green Tribunal constituted as per the provisions of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, acts as an independent Appellate Authority in respect of the ECs that are granted.

(e) and (f): The Ministry has organised capacity building programs through expert agencies like ASCI (Administrative Staff College of India), Hyderabad for the SEIAA/SEAC officials. The Ministry periodically reviews the functioning of SEIAA/SEAC at the highest level for ensuring effective and efficient appraisal of Category B projects at the SEIAA/SEAC level. In addition, the officials of SEIAA/SEAC are frequently sensitized on the latest developments, best practices in the field of Environmental Impact Assessment, as also various Amendments, Notifications, Office Memoranda etc., issued from time to time. Further, trainings are also conducted for the officials of SEIAA/SEAC on the various features and modules of the PARIVESH portal, to enable them to efficiently discharge their duties.

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