

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION 1785
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2016

Environmental Friendly Policy

1785. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:

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

- (a) whether Maharashtra has become the first choice for investors with the State Government's ease of doing business and friendly policies and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is likely to extend easy environment clearances to all such schemes sponsored by other States to attract investors; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued EIA Notification, 2006 vide S.O.No.1533(E) dated 14th September, 2006, which provides procedure and mechanism for environment clearance. The notification has been amended from time to time to streamline the clearance process. The projects/activities listed in the Schedule to this Notification require prior environment clearance. The Ministry is committed to ensure that environment and development go hand in hand to achieve the ultimate goal of sustainable development.

Ministry has taken various initiatives and made the required changes in the policies, rules and notifications with the objective to streamline and rationalize the process of environment clearance for various sector projects without compromising the integrity of the environment, which *inter-alia* include, mandating the online submission of applications for Terms of References (TORs) and Environment Clearance with a view to bringing in transparency in the system and expediting decision making; regular monitoring of status of pending projects; regular and longer duration meetings of Expert Appraisal Committees for consideration of projects in different sectors; amending EIA Notification, 2006 delegating more powers

to SEIAAs; standardizing the TORs for preparation of EIA Report and mandating finalization of TORs in 30 days; exempting the construction of industrial shed, school, college, hostels for education institution from requirement of EC; granting exemption to all highway projects in border States from scoping requirement and exempting all linear projects in border States from the requirement of public hearing subject to suitable conditions prescribed by the Ministry. Ministry has also amended the EIA Notification, 2006 to facilitate expeditious transfer of environment clearance to new allocatees of cancelled coal blocks; increased the validity of Environment Clearance from 5 years to 7 years; for the first time delegated the power to grant environmental clearance for mining of minor minerals (including sand mining) for 5 ha. of individual lease and 25 ha. in cluster, to the district level authority (District Environment Impact Assessment Authority) headed by the District Magistrate. These initiatives are part of the efforts of present government to create a clean and transparent working environment in the country and promote the Ease of Doing Business, thereby boosting the “Make in India” campaign.
