

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2224
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2002
MEETING OF ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
GADDE RAMAMOCHAN

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

- (a) whether the Economic Advisory Committee meeting was held on July 13, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether any stress was made on the promise to clean up the Government's regulatory procedures including several growth hindering hurdles that have been placed in the name of environmental protection; and
- (c) if so, the details of steps taken by his Ministry in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b)&(c) A comprehensive review of current regulatory procedures has been initiated. As a part of this exercise, a High Level Official Working Group headed by Secretary Industrial Policy & Promotion has been set-up to examine the extant procedures for investment approvals and implementation of projects and suggest measures to simplify and expedite the process for both public and private investments. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has taken various measures to streamline and rationalize the environmental and forestry clearance processes, which inter alia, include:

- Investment limit for new projects has been raised from Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 100 crores for purposes of environmental clearance.
- Time limit of 60 days has been mandated for completion of public hearing.
- Setting up of non-polluting industries in the field of Information Technology and service industries etc. has been made permissible in Coastal Regulation Zone of notified Special Economic Zone.
- Simplification of appraisal procedure in respect of proposals for forestry clearance.