

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1707

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006

NOTIFICATION ON ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ NORMS

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued a new notification on Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)/Norms; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARIAN MEENA)

- (a) Yes, Sir. The Environment Impact Assessment Notification has been issued on 14th September 2006 vide Gazette No. S.O. 1533 (E).
- (b) The salient features of the Notification are as follows:
 - (i) NOC (No Objection Certificate) is not required for the purpose of Environment Clearance.
 - (ii) The developmental projects have been categorized according to their environmental impact potential instead of the earlier investment criteria.
 - (iii) Environmental Clearance process has been decentralized.
 - (iv) The developmental projects have been categorized into two Categories viz. Category 'A' and Category 'B'. All Category 'A' projects require environmental clearance from the Central Government level while all Category 'B' projects require clearance from the State/UT Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEAC).
 - (v) Qualification and experience has been clearly prescribed for the Experts and Members for Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC), State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) and the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEAC).
 - (vi) The environmental process will comprise four stages; namely Screening, Scoping, Public Consultation and Environmental Appraisal of the project proposals.
 - (vii) Public Consultation has been structured and made more transparent.
 - (viii) Time Limits have been prescribed for each stage of environmental clearance process.
 - (ix) Over all, the Environmental Clearance process has been made more transparent, as most of the documents will be displayed on the Web sites of respective Authorities.