

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2662

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006

PROJECTS AWAITING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

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

- (a) the number of pending projects of Andhra Pradesh awaiting environmental clearance;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to relax the environmental rules to speed up clearance of pending projects of the States; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a) There are 64 projects awaiting environmental clearance in various sectors for the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (b) The Environment Impact Assessment Notification has been issued on 14th September 2006 vide Gazette No. S.O. 1533 (E) to make the EIA process more efficient, decentralized and transparent.
- (c) 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.