

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4321
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
IMPACT OF GROWING ECONOMY ON ENVIRONMENT
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the pressure of growing economy on the environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the World Bank study finds that monitoring of Environment Impact Assessment in India is not satisfactory; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Under the aegis of World Bank Technical Assistance programme, re-engineering of the Environmental Clearance process was undertaken from the year 2001 onwards culminating in new Environment Impact Assessment Notification issued on 14.09.2006, as a replacement of the earlier Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 1994. The objectives of this Notification were to make the Environmental Clearance process more effective, efficient and decentralized. Further, to mitigate the impact on environment, a provision for Environment Impact Assessment study has been made in the above Notification in order that impacts of developmental projects are identified and mitigation measures formulated at the planning stage of the project.

(c) & (d) World Bank Study on "Strengthening Institutions for Sustainable Growth-Country Environmental Analysis for India" has been issued in April, 2007, wherein inter-alia strengthening of monitoring mechanism has been mentioned. The work for this study was done when re-engineering process mentioned above was in progress and in fact the new Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 does provide for post environmental clearance monitoring mechanism.