

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1571

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009

REMOVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORS FROM BOARDS OF COMPANIES

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Satpathy Shri Tathagata;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to remove environmental regulators from the boards of companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaint from certain Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) regarding violation of environmental rules like granting environmental clearance;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry into these matters;
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the erring officials; and
- (g) the effective measures taken by the Government to ensure transparency in the environmental clearance process?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): While constituting the Expert Appraisal Committees, based on the available bio-data of Experts, scrutiny is done so that there is no conflict of interest.

(c) to (f): Complaints have, in the past, been received regarding matters such as non- implementation of conditions stipulated in the environment clearance letter, non adherence to the prescribed standards, change in scope of the project and change of project location. These complaints are duly examined and wherever necessary, site inspections are got conducted through the Regional Offices of this Ministry as also the Central / State / Union Territory Pollution Control Boards. Inputs from the respective State Governments are also obtained whenever required. The matters like those relating to change of scope of the project or change of location, any complaints received before the grant of Environment Clearance (EC) are referred to the Expert Appraisal Committees for obtaining their recommendations before taking a decision.

(g): In order to increase transparency in the clearance process, the information has been put in public domain, through the website of the Ministry, relating to (i) status of pending projects, (ii) schedule and agenda of the meeting of Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs), (iii) minutes of the EAC meeting, (iv) Environment Clearance letters and (v) circulars, guidelines, instructions relating to Environmental Clearance.