

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1677
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
SWIFT ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has received an advisory from the Prime Minister's Office to evolve a mechanism for swift environment clearances for infrastructure projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Planning Commission has sought Ministry of Environment's comments on the proposal; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which the report on new process of early clearance will be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (d) : In pursuance of recommendations of the 54th Meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) in December, 2007, an Expert Group was constituted in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) to examine the system of statutory clearances including forests/environment clearances for industrial and infrastructure projects and suggest concrete ways of speeding these up. Based on the recommendations of the said Expert Group, the Government decided in December, 2008 to set up a High Powered Committee (HPC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Planning Commission to look into the detailed recommendations of the Report of the Expert Group in respect of various legislations under the ambit of Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF). Subsequently, as per minutes enclosed with D.O. No. 212/9/1/2008-CA.IV dated 06-02-2009, the MOEF in consultation with Planning Commission reconstituted the HPC to include the following:

1. Special Chief Secretary (Environment, Forest and Science & Technology), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
2. Principal Secretary (Environment), Govt. of West Bengal
3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Orissa
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madhya Pradesh

The Report of the HPC has been finalized on 1st July, 2010 and the Ministry of Environment & Forests is seized of the matter.