

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5010

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012

DELAY IN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES

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

- (a) whether a large number of projects are awaiting environmental clearances in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the pendency alongwith the period since when they are pending project-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to expedite the clearance of pending proposals by decentralisation of power to grant approval to the State Authorities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN):

(a) & (b): As on 30th April, 2012, 743 projects are awaiting environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Out of these, 207 projects are pending for less than 105 days and 536 projects are pending for more than 105 days. The reasons for pendency of projects include; (i) non submission of requisite information / data / documents by the project proponents, (ii) violations of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, (iii) representations / court cases against the proposed projects and (iv) forestry and wildlife issues etc.

(c): Under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, powers have been delegated to State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) to grant environment clearance to category 'B' projects. There is no proposal at present to further delegate powers to the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs).

(d): Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) of the Question above.