

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6095
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
RELAXATION IN CLEARANCE NORMS
Singh Shri Mahabali

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to simplify the process of grant of environment clearances to various projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of projects are pending with the Government for environmental clearances; and
- (d) if so, the extent to which simplifying the process at according environmental clearances would help in clearing the pending projects in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 1994 was amended on 14.9.2006. The amended Notification has provided for comprehensive coverage of the category of projects / activities requiring prior environmental clearance based on impact potential rather than project cost, prescribing of time frame for each stage of environment clearance process, and decentralization of decision making by delegating powers to State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) for grant of environment clearance in respect of category 'B' projects etc.

(c) & (d): As on 30th April, 2012, 743 projects were awaiting environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Every effort is made to adhere to the prescribed time limit.