

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2518

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012

DELAY IN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES

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

- (a) whether several infrastructure projects have been delayed for several years for want of environmental clearances;
- (b) if so, the number of infrastructure projects pending with the Government for clearance, as on date;
- (c) the reasons for holding the environmental clearances of these infrastructure projects; and
- (d) the remedial steps being taken by the Government for their clearances?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) No, Sir. The grant of Environmental Clearance to the new/expansion projects is a continuous process. At present, 35 of infrastructure projects are under consideration of the Ministry for Environmental Clearance. Out of these, in 18 projects, Stage –I Forests clearance for diversion of forest land is awaited from the proponent. Remaining projects are under consideration at various stages, mostly for submission of adequate information by the project proponent.

(d) A number of steps have been initiated by the Ministry to expedite the clearance process, which inter-alia include

(i) Regular and longer duration meetings of the Expert Appraisal Committee(s) in various sectors,

(ii) Further streamlining of the procedure for appraisal of projects

(iii) Finalization of thirty seven sector specific manuals, which have been uploaded on the Ministry's website for benefit of all Stakeholders,