

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1103

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013

CLEARANCES TO HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Viswanathan Shri P.;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the norms/criteria set by the Ministry for grant of environmental clearance has blocked a number of highway development projects as alleged by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI);
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of such projects pending with the Ministry as on date for getting clearances and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has requested the Ministry to expedite the approval process and if so, the action taken by the Ministry in this regard;
- (d) whether the Ministry proposes to review their existing norms/criteria for grant of environmental clearances to various developmental projects in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken/being taken by the Ministry in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As on date, 32 highway projects are pending for environmental clearance, out of which 30 projects involve diversion of forest land and require Stage-I forest clearance. The grant of environmental clearance is linked to Stage –I forest clearance based on the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 202 of 1995.

(c)to (e) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways requested the Ministry to expedite the approval process. Ministry has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission to review the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 relating to roads, buildings, SEZ projects and OM dated 07th February, 2012 issued by the Ministry regarding guidelines on high rise buildings.