

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:185
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES TO PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to speed up/review the existing procedure related to environmental and forest clearances to various projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the time frame stipulated, if any, in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted an expert committee for evaluation and assessment for grant of environmental clearances to the large projects in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 185 FOR ANSWER ON 11.03.2013 REGARDING ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCES TO PROJECTS.

(a) and (b) The cases of environment and forest clearances to various projects are dealt with as per statutory provisions under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 respectively. There are timelines prescribed for processing such cases.

The improvement in systems, so as to facilitate qualitative, sustainable, holistic early decision making in a transparent and objective manner, is a continuous process. Various steps taken by the Ministry to fast track the environment clearance process without compromising the quality of the appraisal or the integrity of the environment include continuous monitoring of status of pending projects, regular and longer duration meetings of Expert Appraisal Committees for consideration of projects in various sectors, etc. To expedite forest clearances, the Forest Advisory Committee meetings are being held regularly and for longer durations. Further, the Ministry has taken a number of reform measures in the recent past with a view to further improving the holistic appraisal and streamlining the environment and forest clearance process.

(c) to (e) There are sector-specific Expert Appraisal Committees, notified as per the provisions under the EIA Notification, 2006 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 respectively to appraise the projects including large projects, in different sectors and make appropriate recommendations to the Ministry on granting environment and forest clearance to the projects.