

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2205

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013

RELAXATION IN CLEARANCE RULES

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to relax environment clearance rules for mining of minor minerals involving brick earth and ordinary earth in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to waive off the requirement of mandatory Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for brick-earth mining projects with a lease area of less than five hectares;
- (d) if so, the facts thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has laid certain conditions for clearance of minor minerals projects;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the time by which the notification in this regard is likely to be issued?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Ministry of Environment & Forests has constituted an Expert Committee on 30.01.2013 under the Chairmanship of Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, to categorise Category 'B' projects/activities into Category 'B1' and 'B2' under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and review classification of projects/activities into 'A' & 'B' and General Conditions as contained in the aforesaid Notification. The issues relating to 'brick earth' and 'ordinary earth' have been referred by the Ministry to this Expert Committee to give their recommendations.

(c) to (g) No view in the matter has been taken as yet.