

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4401
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR NH PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently cleared a number of National Highways Authority of India (NHA) projects without obtaining environmental clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether NHA will now be required to get environmental clearance only for the projects falling within forest land; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA)

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Ministry of Environment & Forest had linked grant of environment clearance with the forest clearance vide their Circular dated 31.3.2011 in pursuance to the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of TN Godhavarman versus Union of India and others [LaFarge case]. Due to this linkage, formal environment clearances were held up for 24 projects. Hon'ble Supreme Court has now de-linked the environment clearance from forest clearance in case of linear road projects. As per order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Ministry of Environment & Forest has decided and intimated all the concerned vide circular dated 19.3.2013 that both the clearances can be taken up separately in cases of linear road projects. Accordingly, Ministry of Environment & Forests has granted environment clearance for 24 projects.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Environment clearance is required for the projects which are attracting Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 and its amendment of the year 2009 whether the project falls in forest area or not.