

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4491  
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013  
NEW GUIDELINES FOR CLEARANCES  
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Patil Shri Sanjay Dina

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

- (a) whether new guidelines issued by his Ministry have impacted the progress of some projects in the State of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details of the new guidelines issued and projects stalled in the State; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for completion of the affected ongoing projects and expenditure incurred so far on these projects?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) During the last few months, a number of reform measures have been taken by the Ministry of Environment & Forests with a view to further improving the holistic appraisal and streamlining the environment clearance (EC) and forest clearance (FC) process. These inter-alia include - de-linking the grant of EC from FC in case of linear projects such as roads, transmission lines, pipelines, etc., involving patches of forest land along their alignment, subject to certain stipulations; No fresh EC required for a mining project at the time of renewal of mining lease, which has already obtained EC under EIA Notification, 2006; Guidelines issued to Expert Appraisal Committee with regard to exempting public hearing for capacity expansion proposals of existing coal mining projects, which have obtained EC and which are for one time capacity expansion of upto 25% in the existing mining operation, within the existing mine lease area; Rationalization of procedure for EC for borrow areas for soil and earth for highway projects; etc.

The Office Memorandums / Notifications issued in respect of aforesaid matters are with a view to further improving the processes and not for impacting the progress of projects including those in the State of Maharashtra.