

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5364  
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013  
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO PROJECTS  
Kalmadi Shri Suresh;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

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

- (a) whether the Government is reviewing the existing process of giving environmental clearance;
- (b) if so, the main objectives of the same and the time limit fixed in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted some groups related to environmental evaluation for providing consultation on the issue of giving approval to big projects; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d). The cases for prior environment clearance in respect of development projects listed in Schedule under the Environment Impact Notification, 2006 are processed in line with the procedure stipulated in the Notification. The Notification also, inter-alia, prescribes the time limit for processing such cases. The development projects, including big projects, are appraised by sector specific Expert Appraisal Committees constituted as per the provisions under the afore-said Notification. The improvement in systems, so as to facilitate qualitative, sustainable, holistic and early decision-making in a transparent and objective manner, is a continuous process. In the past few months, a number of reform measures have been taken with a view to further improving the holistic appraisal and streamlining the environment clearance process.