

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5395
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013
PARALLEL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Singh Shri Dhananjay

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

- (a) the details of the steps to be followed by mining companies seeking to obtain environmental clearances for their proposed operations in the country;
- (b) whether the Government undertakes any parallel environmental assessment to verify the data provided by mining companies; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the number of such verification visits for recent mining proposals?

Answer

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

(a) : As per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006, the project proponents are required to submit form 1 and pre-feasibility report to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) for seeking environmental clearance for mining projects covered under schedule of the notification. The environmental clearance process comprises of four stages, i.e. (i) Screening: to determine whether or not the project or activity requires further environmental studies for preparation of an environmental impact assessment report for its appraisal prior to the grant of environmental clearance depending upon the nature and location specificity of the project; (ii) Scoping: to determine detailed and comprehensive Terms of Reference addressing all relevant environmental concerns for the preparation of an environmental impact assessment report in respect of the project or activity for which prior environmental clearance is sought; (iii) Public Consultation: the concerns of local affected persons and others who have plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the project or activity are ascertained with a view to taking into account all the material concerns in the project or activity design as appropriate; and (iv) Appraisal: the detailed scrutiny of the application and other documents like the final environmental impact assessment report, outcome of the public consultations including public hearing proceedings, submitted by the applicant to the regulatory authority concerned for grant of environmental clearance.

(b) & (c) : All relevant data is collected and environmental impact assessment reports are prepared by the consultants accredited with Quality Council of India/National Accreditation Board of Education and Training and appointed by the project proponents. As per the provisions under the EIA Notification 2006, deliberate concealment and/or submission of false or misleading information or data which is material to screening or scoping or appraisal or decision on the application shall make the application liable for rejection, and cancellation of prior environmental clearance granted on that basis. In case, during appraisal process, the Expert Appraisal Committee is of the view that certain additional information is required, the same is sought from various authorities like State Pollution Control Boards, State Governments etc. The monitoring of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the environmental clearance of the project is done by the concerned Regional Offices of MoEF.