

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1882
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013
EXPERT COMMITTEES ON ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISALS
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of Expert Committees on environment appraisals in the country.
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any representations against the manner in which the disposals of applications made by the Mining and other Expert Committees;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard including the streamlining of the present system?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): All projects or activities categorized as Category 'A' in the Schedule to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006, as amended from time to time, require prior environment clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests on the recommendations of the concerned sectoral Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs). There is no proposal to increase the number of EACs. Also, the Ministry has not received any representation against manner of disposal of application by the mining sector and other sectoral EACs.

The Streamlining of system, so as to facilitate qualitative, sustainable, holistic decision- making in a transparent and objective manner, is a continuous process. Various steps taken by the Ministry to fast track the environment clearance process without compromising the quality of the appraisal or the integrity of the environment include continuous monitoring of status of pending projects, regular and longer duration meeting of EACs for consideration of projects in different sectors, streamlining of procedures, etc.