

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2883
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014
CLEARANCES TO PROJECTS
Patil Shri C. R.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to return the jurisdiction of Environmental Clearances of Category 'B' projects in critically polluted areas to respective State Level Expert Appraisal Committee/State Environment Impact Assessment Authority in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (d) : There is no such proposal for delegating powers to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority/State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEIAA/SEAC) to issue environmental clearances to Category 'B' projects located in critically polluted areas in the Country. The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) considers the projects for environmental clearances as per the procedure laid down in EIA Notification, 2006. The projects and activities, considering their potential of environmental impacts, are broadly categorized into Category 'A' and Category 'B'. The Category 'A' projects are appraised at the Central level by the MoEF and Category 'B' projects by the SEIAA/SEAC constituted by the MoEF in consultation with the State Governments. For further simplifying the process for grant of Environmental Clearance, the Ministry has recently issued guidelines for categorization of Category 'B' projects/activities into Category 'B1' & 'B2'.