

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4311  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009  
EXEMPTION OF SEZ FROM PUBLIC HEARING  
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

(a) whether SEZs are listed in Clause 7

(c) in the schedule of Industries requiring environmental clearance, as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2005;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as per the requirement of this notification, SEZs are required to prepare an EIA report for locals and public consultations;

(c) if so, whether any SEZs have been exempted from public hearing/ consultations by the Export Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI JAI RAM RAMESH)

(a) As per EIA Notification, 2006, the proposals relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as listed under Clause 7(c) of the Schedule to the Notification, require prior Environmental Clearance.

(b) As per EIA Notification, 2006, public consultation is a component in the environmental appraisal process in respect of projects falling in Category 'A' and Category 'B1' for which an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report is required to be prepared by the project proponent.

(c) to (e) No proposal relating to setting up of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) as specified under item 7 (c) of the Schedule to EIA Notification, 2006 has been granted exemption from public consultation, except the projects or activities located within industrial estates or parks as per the provisions of the Notification. However, SEZs not covered under 7(c), but covered under item 8(a) and 8(b) of the Schedule of the Notification have been considered in terms of the provisions thereunder.