

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1078
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014
ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE FOR NH PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to redraw the policy with regard to environment and forest clearances for the expeditious execution of highway projects;
- (b) if so, the details and status thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated process of consultation with the Environment Ministry and the State Government; and
- (d) if so, the status thereof along with the date by which the new policy is likely to come in force?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) to (d) Vide their different orders, the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) has resolved most of the bottlenecks in respect of strengthening and widening of the National Highways (NH) projects. It has also de-linked the grant of Environment Clearance from the Forest Clearance for linear projects and treated the strengthening and widening of NH projects differently from the new projects and allowed the construction of the NH in the Non-Forest areas. Accordingly, the process for obtaining environment and forest clearances are relaxed significantly for all the existing and future road projects. To simplify operational difficulties and administrative problems being faced by the highways sector, MoEF has been further suggested to rationalise the procedure for statutory clearances by minimising the time taken for such clearances. These suggestions have been made to MoEF for rationalization and simplification of policy/procedure, which does not amount to redraw the existing policy with a new one.