

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1346

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015

EXECUTION OF LINEAR PROJECTS

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

(a) whether the Government has recently announced a major relaxation for faster execution of all linear projects including roads, rail, power transmission lines, water supply lines and laying of optic fiber cables;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any time frame for this purpose and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which such move would help in speedy execution of infrastructural projects stalled for want of environmental clearance; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to prevent indiscriminate felling of trees and protection of wild life in the areas likely to be affected by the said projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) The Ministry has revised the norms for granting Environmental Clearance to linear projects such as exempting all highway expansion projects from scoping requirement; highway projects of greater than 100 km length involving additional Right of Way(RoW) or land acquisition greater than 40m on alignments and 60m on re- alignments or by-passes will only require EC; issuance of Environmental Clearance to the linear projects pending for grant of stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to certain additional conditions; exempting highway projects in border States from scoping requirement and exempting all linear projects in border States from the requirement of Public Hearing etc. Suitable conditions are stipulated so as to address the likely environmental impacts while granting the Environmental Clearance.