

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4446
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES
Chaudhury Shri Jitendra

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

- (a) the terms of reference of the High Level Committee appointed by the Government to review the existing provisions of the Forest Conservation and Environmental laws;
- (b) the present status thereof;
- (c) whether a large number of Environmental clearances have been accorded prior to appointment of the said committee;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether adequate precaution has been taken to prevent eviction of people and causing economic hardships to them due to grant of the environmental clearances and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change constituted a High Level Committee to undertake a retrospection exercise in the functioning of following forest, wildlife and environment related statutes with the objective of aligning the current legal framework with the requirements of the future:

- i. Environment (Protection) act, 1986
- ii. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- iii. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- iv. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- v. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- vi. The Indian Forests Act, 1927 (added on 18th September, 2014)

The Terms of Reference of the said Committee are as follows:

- (i) To assess the status of implementation of each of the aforesaid Acts vis-à-vis the objectives;
- (ii) To examine and take into account various court orders and judicial pronouncements relating to these Acts;
- (iii) To recommend specific amendments needed in each of these Acts so as to bring them in line with current requirements to meet objectives; and
- (iv) To draft proposed amendments in each of the aforesaid Acts to give effect to the proposed recommendations.

(b) The Committee has submitted its report to Ministry. Ministry is examining the recommendations in consultation with State/ UT Government.

(c), (d) & (e) No, Sir. Environmental Clearance is accorded to the project by following due procedure as provided in the EIA notification 2006 (as amended) issued under Environment (Protection) Act 2006. The Environment Clearance issued to the project is subject to stipulation of various environmental safeguards.