

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:17
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2014
ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE FOR MINES
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of public sector companies/undertakings are lying closed for want of environmental clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has chalked out any time-bound mechanism to expedite environment clearances of these mines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure transparency in resolving issues relating to environmental clearances?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES, STEEL AND LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) and (b): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e): The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which deals with the process to grant Environmental Clearances. The projects of mining of minerals as stated in the schedule require prior environment clearance under this notification.

The time lines have been prescribed under the EIA Notification, 2006. Accordingly Term of References (TORs) shall be conveyed by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) within sixty days of the receipt of Form-I to the Project Proponent. Thereafter, as per the TORs issued, the project proponents are required to comply with the conditions mentioned in the TORs which inter-alia include collection of base-line data, approved mine plan, conducting public consultations, and submission of final EIA/ Environment Management Plan (EMP) Reports to the Ministry of Environment and Forests along with all the relevant documents.

On receipt of final EIA/EMP report after the public consultation, the project is appraised by the EAC within sixty days in a transparent manner in a proceeding to which the Proponent is invited for furnishing necessary clarification in person or through an authorized representative. Thereafter, the EAC makes appropriate recommendations of the proposal and the Ministry takes the final decision with regard to Environmental Clearance as per the EIA Notification, 2006. This decision is conveyed to the Proponent within forty five days of the receipt of the recommendations of EAC. In other words, the decision is to be conveyed within one hundred five days from the receipt of the final EIA/EMP report/requisite documents from the Project Proponent.