

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2029
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY
Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has made/proposes to make it mandatory for companies to incorporate an environmental responsibility policy document in their applications while seeking the terms of reference for an Environment Impact Assessment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the guidelines issued in this regard;
- (c) whether these guidelines have been prepared in consultation with the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and other organizations of the various industries; and
- (d) if so, the details and the changes made as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a)& (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), recognizing the need of integrating environmental concerns into developmental projects, has mandated for all companies including major Public Sector Undertakings to ensure incorporation of the Corporate Environment Responsibility component, while submitting the application for seeking Terms of Reference(TORs). The Expert Appraisal Committees(EACs) and State/ Union Territory Level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs)/ State/ Union Territory Level Expert Appraisal Committees(SEACs) have also been directed to deliberate on this issue, especially with regard to adequacy and comprehensiveness and stipulate, through a speaking recommendation at TOR or appraisal stage. Further, it had been mandated that all TORs and Environment Clearances(ECs) to be granted by the MoEF&CC/ SEIAAs, the component of Corporate Environment Responsibility be appropriately incorporated to promote environmental consciousness.

(c)& (d) MoEF&CC had held discussions with various Industry Associations , namely, CII, FICCI, FIMI and ASSOCHAM and a draft concept paper was prepared outlining the elements of Corporate Environment Policy. Subsequently, the Government has enacted the Companies Act, 2013, which also inter alia deals with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Schedule VII of the Act lists out the activities, including ensuring environmental sustainability, which may be included by the Companies in their CSR policies. Further, Ministry of Corporate Affairs have also notified the Companies(Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014.