

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3969
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
Antony Shri Anto ;Premachandran Shri N.K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up an Environment Protection Framework (EPF) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether environmental degradation has been on the rise in the country, particularly in urban areas;
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government; and
- (e) the financial assistance extended to various States for preservation of environment, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is an umbrella legislation, which provides for a holistic framework for protection and improvement of environment in the country. This Act empowers the Government to take all such measures as it deems necessary for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution. The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006, as amended, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, prescribes the procedure to be adopted while granting prior environment clearance to the projects or activities listed in the Schedule of the Notification. In addition to Environment (Protection) Act 1986, there are other Acts dealing with various environmental issues, viz., Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, etc.

(c) & (d) The urban areas are facing challenges of environmental pollution, inter-alia, on account of rapid urbanization, increasing population, resource constraints with urban local bodies, lack of public awareness, etc. The steps taken to contain environmental pollution in urban areas include introduction of improved quality of petrol and diesel for vehicles, introduction of Bharat Stage-IV emission norms in 13 mega cities for new four-wheelers, notification of Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules 2000, providing financial assistance under JNNURM Programme to State Governments for creating infrastructure for municipal solid waste management, etc.

(e) The State-wise detail of financial assistance provided by this Ministry during 2013-14 for implementing various schemes for protection of environment is at Annexure.