

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:872

ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014

DELINKING OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST CLEARANCE

Noor Smt. Mausam

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to delink Environmental Clearance (EC) from Forest Clearance (FC), in order to facilitate expeditious execution of highway project;
- (b) if so, the details and the modified norms thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has consulted all stakeholders in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal; and
- (e) the time by which the new norms are likely to be approved and implemented?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Environmental clearances for highway projects, which involved diversion of forest land, were earlier linked with Stage-I forest clearance. It has now been decided to delink environmental and forest clearances for linear projects, including highways. Accordingly, highway projects can now be executed on non-forest land on either side of forest land based on environmental clearance, without waiting for forest clearance. Work in forest land can be executed only after grant of forest clearance.