

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:338

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014

IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

Choudhary Shri Ram Tahal;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently notified/relaxed the norms for environmental clearance and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance in respect of certain States for industrial and infrastructure projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, project and State-wise;
- (c) whether the requests received from the States and other stakeholders have been taken into consideration before notification/relaxation of such norms and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the mechanism put in place for monitoring the implementation/violation of environmental laws/notifications in the country; and
- (e) the steps taken so far to overhaul the existing environmental laws and ensure together penalty for flouting pollution norms and violation green laws in the country?

Answer

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

(a)to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.338 for reply on 16/12/2014 raised by SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR AND SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY regarding Implementation of Environmental Laws.

(a) No Sir. There is no recent State specific notification for Environmental Clearance and Coastal Regulation Zone Clearance in respect of industrial and infrastructure projects.

(b) & (c) Does not arise in view of the above. However, the Government have recently streamlined the process of Environmental and Coastal Regulation Zone Clearance. These include online submission of application for Environmental Clearance and Coastal Regulation Zone Clearance; dispensing with the necessity of TOR for widening of highways; exempting irrigation projects with command area up to 2000 hectares from Environmental Clearance requirement; dispensing with requirement of Environmental Clearance for expansion of highways having length of less than 100 kilometres with certain conditions; permissibility of certain projects in identified critically polluted areas; and higher delegation to State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) for Environmental Clearance in respect of projects located at inter-State boundaries, boundaries of critically polluted areas, bio-mass based thermal power projects, mineral beneficiation projects and non-molasses based distilleries. In addition, draft notifications for amending the extant provisions for Environmental Clearance include exemption for industrial sheds from the necessity for Environmental Clearance for construction of building over 20,000 sq.mt.; exemption for highways projects in border States and coal washery projects from scoping requirement; exemption for all linear projects in border States and coal mining expansion projects with specified capacity from the requirements of public hearing with certain conditions; and extension of validity period of TORs for river valley and hydro power projects.

(d) & (e) Regional offices of the Ministry are monitoring the compliance of all the conditions of Environment Clearance and Coastal Regulation Zone clearance. SCZMAs are also entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring of CRZ clearance. Environment Protection Act, 1986, Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 have provisions for taking actions in case of violations. The Government had appointed a High Level Committee in August, 2014 to review the environment and forest related laws administered by the Ministry. The Report has been received.