

Construction of projects without environment approval

3603. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the companies that begin work on project without prior approval would henceforth have to submit a written commitment not to violate laws in future, even if their projects eventually do get the go ahead;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that an increasing number of instances were being brought to its notice where substantial physical progress relating to the construction of the project was made and sizable investment pumped in without obtaining prior mandatory environmental clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment & Forests has prescribed the procedure for consideration of proposals which have started construction without obtaining requisite prior environmental clearance under the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. It has been decided that the formal environmental clearance to such projects will be issued only after the matter relating to violations have been put up to the Board of Directors of the company or to the Managing Committee/CEO of the Society, Trust, Partnership/Individually owned concern for consideration of its environment related policy/plan of action as also a written commitment in the form of a formal resolution to be submitted to Ministry of Environment & Forests/State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority to ensure that violations of the Environment (Protection) Act etc. will not be repeated.

(c) and (d) Several cases have come to the notice of the Ministry of Environment & Forests where the project proponents have started construction on the project without obtaining requisite prior environmental clearance under EIA Notification, 2006. These projects fall in the category of both Greenfield projects as well as expansion of the existing projects and *inter-alia* include sectors like thermal power projects, industrial projects, building and construction projects, mining projects and coal washeries.