

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There were some procedural reasons behind this, details of which cannot be divulged on the floor of the House, being SECRET in nature.

(c) BCAS has taken the necessary action and has directed the concerned agencies to improve the system. Details in this regard cannot be divulged on the floor of the House, being SECRET in nature.

Delay in key infrastructure projects

*115. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Ministries, such as Coal, Power and Road Transport, have complained against the Ministry of Environment and Forests for causing delay to key infrastructure projects due to slow pace of environmental clearances; and

(b) if so, the details of these projects and the action that has been taken by Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Concerns have been expressed by Coal, Power and Road Transport Ministries regarding delay in according/grant of environmental clearances in respect of key infrastructure projects. As per information with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the status of pendency in respect of Environment and Forest clearances is as under:-

Sl. No.	Sector	No. of Projects pending Environment Clearance	No. of Projects pending Forest Clearance
1.	Power Projects	42	18
2.	Coal Projects	23	10
3.	Highway Projects	10	-
4.	Road Projects	-	61

A Twelve Member Group of Ministers (GoM), has been constituted on 3rd February, 2011, under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister to consider environmental and developmental issues relating to coal mining and other developmental projects. The GOM will consider issues relating to environmental concerns emanating from various developmental activities including those related to infrastructure and mining and finalise its recommendations within two months, including the following:-

- (i) the efficacy and legality of existing forest clearance norms and procedures being followed;
- (ii) environment clearance in respect of projects located in areas with high Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index; and
- (iii) the steps to be taken to ensure that better quality forests are regenerated in a time-bound manner after mining operations get over.

Diplomat assaulting his wife

* 116. DR. YOGENDRA P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a senior Indian diplomat in London, accused of assaulting his wife, has been recalled; and
- (b) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) An Indian diplomat in London accused of assaulting his wife has been transferred back to India prematurely.

(b) This followed an investigation into an incident involving the diplomat assaulting his wife. The officer has since been reverted to his parent cadre.

NAC's suggestions on RTI Rules

* 117. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Advisory Council (NAC) has made some suggestions on the proposed Right to Information (RTI) Rules; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The National Advisory Council has not given any suggestions on the proposed Rules. As such question of reaction thereto does not arise.

However, the Working Group on Transparency of the National Advisory Council has commented on the draft amendment to the RTI Rules. The Working Group has, *inter-alia*, expressed the view that there should not be any restriction on the length of the RTI applications or that of one subject matter in one application, Central Information Commission should have freedom to select its staff and allocate work, fee may be accepted through revenue stamps and money orders, appeals should not be rejected on the ground of missing documents, appeal proceedings should not abate on the death of applicant etc.