THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The urban areas are facing challenges of waste disposal, *inter-alia*, on account of rapid urbanization, increasing population, lack of public awareness, financial constraints and inadequate capacities of Urban Local Bodies. Urban waste management is a State subject. State Governments/Urban Local Bodies are required to plan, design, execute and operate waste management projects in the urban areas of the country. This Ministry has notified the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, which, *inter-alia*, provide for norms for collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes. Every municipal authority, within its territorial area, is responsible for implementation of the provisions of these rules and also for development of infrastructure for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes. To support efforts of State Governments, Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with a view to providing financial assistance to the State Governments for creating infrastructure for municipal solid waste management. MoUD has also published a manual on Municipal Solid Waste Management to assist Urban Local Bodies in management of municipal solid waste in a hygienic and scientific manner.

(c) and (d) This Ministry notified the draft Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2013 proposing appropriate amendments in the existing Rules, for public comments. The Ministry has constituted a Committee having representatives of the Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Central Pollution Control Board, certain State Pollution Control Boards and Municipal Corporations, etc. to examine the comments and suggestions received in response to these draft Rules.

Clearance for proposal of memorial of Ambedkar

†933. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from the State Government of Maharashtra for giving environment clearance to the proposal for the memorial of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, if so, the details thereof and the latest status of this proposal; and

(b) by when this proposal is proposed to be finalized and the reasons for the delay being occurred thereon?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The proposal of Maharashtra Government as recommended by Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) for amending the CRZ Notification, 2011 to incorporate special provisions to enable development of Memorial of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar by permitting reconstruction with change of land use from industrial purpose to development of memorial as further recommended by the National Coastal Zone Management Authority was sent by this Ministry for legal vetting to Ministry of Law and Justice.

In the meantime, Ministry of Textiles has obtained a legal opinion from Solicitor General, as per which, the legislation regarding the transfer of land shall be made prior to bringing the proposed amendment to the CRZ Notification. The proposed legislation is yet to be enacted.

Environmental clearance to Defence projects

†934. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to give environmental clearance in order of priority to complete defence projects;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any step towards this direction so far; and

(c) if so, the comprehensive details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change consider the applications for grant of Environment Clearance from various sectors including Defence sector as per provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 as amended from time to time, which *inter-alia* prescribes the time-lines for considering the proposal. All Defence sector proposals are kept in Category 'A' in the EIA Notification, 2006 and considered at the Central Government level. The Ministry has constituted an Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) to consider the defence sector proposals for expediting the process for grant of Environment Clearance to such projects.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.