

The Central Government is also supplementing development efforts of States in NER through Special Central Assistance (SCA) and Special Plan Assistance (SPA) through State Plans. The establishment of NEC in 1971 as an advisory body for socio-economic development of North East States; the earmarking (since 1998-99) of at least 10% of Plan Budgets of Non-Exempted Central Ministries/Departments for expenditure in the NER; creation of the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) in 1997-98 from the accruals of the unutilized segment of 10% earmarked funds of non-exempted Ministries/Departments are examples of policy initiatives of Central Government for the development of the NER. Government has announced a fiscal package of incentives under North East Industrial Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP), 2007 with effect from 1st April, 2007 with the objective to promote industrialization in the States of NER. Within these policies, the Government has implemented various short-term, medium-term and long-term measures as ongoing processes to enhance the pace of socio-economic development of North-Eastern Region. In the current year's Budget 2014-15, the Government made an allocation of ₹ 53,705.72 crores for the North Eastern Region. This is being utilised for the various ongoing schemes as well as new schemes.

**Steps taken for early clearance of pending projects**

1251. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM:

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

(a) the details of proposals received from various States for environmental and forest clearances of the projects viz. irrigation dam, power, mining, highways and infrastructure, etc. and are pending with the Ministry for clearance, State and UT-wise;

(b) the reasons for pendency along with the period since when they are pending. State/year and project-wise;

(c) the number of projects cleared during each of the last three years, State and UT-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/strategy proposed by Government for an early clearance of pending projects in the country and formulation of a viable policy for clearing such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The State/UT-

wise details of proposals pending with the Ministry for grant of environment clearance and forest, clearance are given in Statement-I and II (*See* below). The applications for grant of Environmental Clearance, for the category of projects as stated in the Schedule of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, are considered in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change as per provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006 as amended from time-to-time. This Notification *inter-alia* provides timelines for various stages of consideration of project proposals for grant of environment clearance. Some delays occur essentially on account of delay in receipt of requisite information from the Project Proponents and delay in conduct of Public Hearing by the concerned District level authorities.

Diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose is accorded only after examining all feasible alternatives and after Central Government is satisfied that diversion of forest land is unavoidable and bare minimum. Central Government while according approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of such forest land stipulates appropriate conditions to mitigate impact of diversion of forest land. These conditions *inter-alia* include transfer and mutation of equivalent non-forest land for compensatory afforestation and realization of funds from the user agency for raising compensatory afforestation, NPV, implementation of wildlife conservation plan, catchment area treatment plan, etc.

(c) During the last three years the Ministry has accorded environmental clearance to 1884 proposals of various sectors. The State/UT-wise details are given in Statement-III (*See* below).

(d) (I) The Ministry has taken a number of initiatives for expediting the decision making in Environment Clearance process which include, (i) On-line submission of applications for grant of Term of Reference/ Environment Clearance, (ii) increased frequency of meetings of Expert Appraisal Committees for consideration of projects in different sectors, (iii) regular monitoring of the status of the pending projects, (iv) Constitution of State/Union Territory level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) in 26 States/ UTs to deal with the Category 'B' projects, (v) Guidelines for Categorization of B Category projects into B1 and B2 Category etc.

(II) Following initiatives have been taken for granting of early forest clearance to various sector projects:

1. Launched a web portal for online submission and monitoring of the Forest Clearance proposals;
2. Accorded General approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for construction and widening of two lane roads by the Border Roads Organization and other agencies whom the Ministry of Defence entrusts the job, in the area falling within 100 kilometers aerial distance from the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and widening of link roads, between Border roads in the area within 100 kilometer aerial distance from the LAC and National Highways/State Highways/Other State Roads.
3. Extended the general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of upto 5 hectares of forest land for construction of all categories of public roads by Government Departments in 117 LWE affected districts to projects involving diversion of forest land, not located within the protected areas, for construction of two lane public roads by Government Departments in these 117 LWE affected districts irrespective of the area of forest land involved in such projects.
4. Extended the general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for underground laying of optical fibre cables, telephone lines and drinking water supply pipelines along the roads within existing right of way not falling in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, without felling of trees, where the maximum size of the trench is not more than 2.00 meter depth and 1.00 meter width to the underground laying of CNG/ PNG pipelines also.
5. Notified the Forest (Conservation) Second Amendment Rules, 2014 to provide for *inter-alia* constitution of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) at each of its Regional Offices and delegation of power to these RECs to finally dispose of proposals, other than those related to mining, regularization of encroachment and hydel projects, involving diversion of upto 40 hectares of forest land, and all proposals related to linear projects such as roads, railway lines etc. irrespective of the area of forest land.
6. With a view to ensure, speedy laying of transmission line projects, the general dispensation available for undertaking compensatory afforestation over

degraded forest lands so far available to the transmission lines upto 220 KV has been extended to all kinds of transmission lines.

7. Amended the guidelines to provide that in case of linear projects in-principle approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 may be deemed as the working permission for tree cutting and commencement of work, if the required funds for compensatory afforestation, NPV, wildlife conservation plan, plantation of dwarf species of medicinal plants, and all such other compensatory levies specified in the in-principle approval are realised from the user agency, and non-forest land for creation of compensatory afforestation, wherever required to be provided by the project proponent, has been transferred and mutated in favour of the State Forest Department.
8. Filed an application before the Supreme Court for regularization of the institution of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).
9. Issued guidelines to the effect that in case of proposals seeking forest clearance for prospecting in forest land which experience permanent change in the land use due to prospecting activity shall only be considered for the purpose of the compensatory afforestation and the Net Present Value, Such proposals have been exempted from the requirement of the submitting requisite certificates under the Forest Rights Act, 2006. It has also been clarified that site inspection from Regional Office in case of these proposals is insisted only if the actual area of the forest land proposed to be utilized for construction of new roads/paths and for drilling of bore holes/sample collection pits etc. is more than 100 hectares.
10. Advised the States/ UTs to not to impose additional conditions over and above the conditions stipulated in the Forest Clearance accorded by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
11. Rationalized the guidelines for diversion of forest land for entry/ exit of patrol pumps/ fuel stations to make in compatible with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, keeping in view the passenger safety.
12. Advised States and Union Territories to identify in advance compact/ sizeable blocks of non-forest land or revenue forest land free from encumbrance/

encroachments which are suitable for creation of compensatory afforestation and also from management point of view. It has also been stated in the said letter that land available in the land bank may be made available to user agencies seeking prior approval of Central Government under the aforementioned Act on realization of appropriate fee/ land cost.

13. Advised the States and Union Territories that investigations and surveys carried out in connection with development projects such as transmission lines, hydro-electric projects, seismic surveys, exploration for oil drilling, mining etc. in wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and sample plots demarcated by the Forest Department also will not attract the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as long as these surveys do not involve any clearing of forest or cutting of trees, and operations are restricted to clearing of bushes and lopping of tree branches for purpose of sighting.
14. Issued guidelines to the effect that in further modification of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change's letter dated 3rd August 2009, proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of plantations which were notified as "forest" on a day-less than 75 years prior to the 13th day of December 2005 and are located in villages having no recorded population of Scheduled Tribes, as per the Census-2001 and the Census-2011, are exempted from the requirement of initiation and completion of process for recognition and vesting of forest rights of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers as stipulated in clause (a), read with clause (d) and clause (g) in second para of the Ministry's said letter dated 3rd August 2009. In such cases a certificate from the concerned District Collector to the effect that the forest land proposed to be diverted is plantation which was notified as "forest" less than 75 years prior to the 13th day of December 2005 and is located in villages having no recorded population of Scheduled Tribes, as per the Census-2001 and the Census-2011, will only be sufficient to meet requirement of clause (a), read with clause (d) and clause (g) in second para of Ministry's letter of even number dated 3rd August 2009.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise details of pending project proposals for consideration for grant of Environment Clearance*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Sector									
		Industry	Industry-2	Thermal	River Valley and Hydro-Electric	Mining (Coal)	Mining (Non-Coal)	CRZ, Infrastructure, Construction Industrial Estates and Misc.	Nuclear	Defence	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	04	1		7	10				25
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands									2	2
3.	Arunachal Pradesh				11						11
4.	Assam						2				2
5.	Bihar	1	1								2
6.	Chandigarh		25								25
7.	Chhattisgarh			2			3				5
8.	Dadra Nagar Haveli										
9.	Daman and Diu										
10.	Delhi										

Written Answers to

[4 December, 2014]

Unstarred Questions

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	66
11.	Goa		4								4	Written Answers to  [RAJYA SABHA]
12.	Gujarat	1	1	2			8	1	1		14	
13.	Haryana	1	03				6				10	
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1	9		4		10				24	
15.	Jammu and Kashmir				2						2	
16.	Jharkhand	5				8	7				20	
17.	Karnataka	10	01	1	2		3	2			19	
18.	Kerala		01		2						3	
19.	Madhya Pradesh	2	03		2	6	4				17	
20.	Maharashtra	1	01	1	3	8	3	2			19	
21.	Manipur		01								1	
22.	Meghalaya						1				1	
23.	Mizoram											
24.	Nagaland		01								1	Unstarred Questions
25.	Lakshadweep		04								4	
26.	Puducherry		04								4	
27.	Odisha	7		3	1	4	6				21	
28.	Punjab	3									3	

29.	Rajasthan	2		1		1	18	1			23
30.	Sikkim		1		1						2
31.	Tamil Nadu	2	25				2	4			33
32.	Telangana					1					1
33.	Tripura										
34.	Uttarakhand	3			1			2			6
35.	Uttar Pradesh	2		1			3				6
36.	West Bengal	4	4			11					19
TOTAL		48	93	12	29	46	86	12	1	2	329

**Statement-II**

*State-wise and sector-wise details of pending project proposals for consideration for grant of Forest Clearance*

Sl. No.	State/ Union Territory	Industrial	Infrastructure	Mining	Power	Hydel	Others
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands		2				
2.	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana		1	13			1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh			1			3
4.	Assam						
5.	Bihar		6				
6.	Chandigarh						
7.	Chhattisgarh		1	2			

Written Answers to

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Unstarred Questions

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Sl. No.	State/ Union Territory	Industrial	Infrastructure	Mining	Power	Hydel	Others
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli						
9.	Daman and Diu						
10.	Delhi						
11.	Goa		4				
12.	Gujarat						1
13.	Haryana		2				
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1				
15.	Jammu and Kashmir						
16.	Jharkhand			5			
17.	Karnataka		1	4	1		5
18.	Kerala						
19.	Lakshadweep						
20.	Madhya Pradesh	1	12	5			8
21.	Maharashtra		4	3			
22.	Manipur		1				
23.	Meghalaya			1			
24.	Mizoram						

25.	Nagaland						
26.	Odisha	1	17				
27.	Puducherry						
28.	Punjab	2					
29.	Rajasthan	3	5				
30.	Sikkim						
31.	Tamil Nadu			1			
32.	Tripura	2					
33.	Uttar Pradesh	5	1			2	
34.	Uttarakhand	1			4	2	
35.	West Bengal	1	1				
TOTAL		2	50	58	2	4	22

***Statement-III***

*State/UT -wise details of the projects granted environment  
clearance during last 3 years*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Total
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7
2.	Andhra Pradesh	210
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	13
4.	Assam	80
5.	Bihar	35
6.	Chandigarh	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	81
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	16
9.	Daman and Diu	4
10.	Delhi	5
11.	Goa	3
12.	Gujarat	256
13.	Haryana	47
14.	Himachal Pradesh	25
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	14
16.	Jharkhand	125
17.	Karnataka	116
18.	Kerala	40
19.	Lakshadweep	
20.	Madhya Pradesh	76
21.	Maharashtra	117
22.	Manipur	3
23.	Meghalaya	7
24.	Mizoram	1
25.	Nagaland	

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Total
26.	Odisha	137
27.	Puducherry	2
28.	Punjab	81
29.	Rajasthan	100
30.	Sikkim	1
31.	Tamil Nadu	115
32.	Telangana	
33.	Tripura	2
34.	Uttar Pradesh	55
35.	Uttarakhand	39
36.	West Bengal	70
	TOTAL	1884

#### Pollution level in metropolitan cities

1252. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the level of pollution in the metropolitan cities of the country;
- (b) the details of the model list of all the desirable and undesirable elements found to be above or below the norms;
- (c) the effective steps taken by Government to control pollution; and
- (d) the future plan chalked out by Government to control pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The ambient air quality is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for UTs and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).

The monitored data for ambient air quality as processed by CPCB for the last 3 years (2010, 2011 and 2012) reveal that levels of Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub> - annual average - 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) are within the prescribed air quality norms in all the 45 metro cities except