

Exemption of construction projects from environmental clearances

1260. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of 2006 been toned down to exempt certain categories of buildings and construction from seeking environment clearances, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this move is motivated solely to allow Foreign Direct Investment in construction; and

(c) whether Government believes that construction projects of less than 20,000 square metres are incapable of leaving any adverse environmental impact and thus require no monitoring?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) No Sir. Prior Environmental Clearance (EC) is mandatory for all the projects listed in the schedule of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 including Building and Construction projects.

Ban on polythene bags

1261. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many State Governments have banned the use of polythene bags;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the use of Polythene bags is still going on in most of the States;

(c) whether Government is encouraging the use of paper bags for which a number of trees will have to be cut; and

(d) the details of remedial measures Government is taking to sort out the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) As per the available information, the States of Sikkim, Nagaland, Haryana, Himachal