

and Area Development projects in Mumbai Metropolitan Region; and SEAC-III is for Building Construction and Area Development projects in Non-Mumbai Region respectively. At present, SEAC-I and SEAC-III are functional and appraising projects for consideration for environment clearances, which are within its scope. The tenure of SEAC-II has however expired in July, 2014 and hence therefore projects under the scope of SEAC-II are being considered in the Ministry as Category 'A' projects in accordance with the provisions prescribed in EIA Notification, 2006.

(b) A total of 558 projects have been cleared for environmental clearances by State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Maharashtra since July, 2014, based on the recommendations of the SEACs of Maharashtra.

(c) A total of about 390 projects are pending appraisal for environmental clearances due to various reasons. Out of this 390, about 200 are pending for issues such as non-compliance of environmental conditions or violations of environmental conditions and 190 are new applications received for consideration for appraisals.

(d) The Ministry has taken various steps to facilitate timely decision on the projects by constituting sector specific Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs) including EAC for appraisal of thermal, hydro and nuclear power projects, regular meeting of the EACs, preparation of sector specific technical guidance manuals which are posted on the Ministry's website, to prepare EIA reports addressing all the related issues. The EIA Notification, 2006 prescribes a time limit of 105 days from the day of receipt of complete information for according environmental clearance. As and when complete information is submitted by the project proponent, the proposal is considered for environmental clearance.

The Ministry has also enabled web based online submission of applications for consideration of projects for environmental clearances to facilitate timely clearances of projects.

Negotiations for carbon emission caps

1271. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has indicated its willingness to abide by carbon emission caps as early as 2016;

(b) if so, whether India carries a risk to be isolated in future climate negotiations on its stand of not agreeing for emission caps; and

(c) the way Government plans to tackle this situation strategically, if situation arises in future climate negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Government is not aware of any such move by China.

(c) India has been actively engaging with various like-minded groups during the international negotiations to protect its own interest.

New Air Control Index

1272. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's Central Pollution Control Board has defined a new Air Control Index (AQI), if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the pollution level of mega cities of India as per this AQI, city-wise; and

(c) in what manner Government proposes to regulate and monitor the source of pollution including industry and transport?

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) at 580 manual station in 244 cities, towns and industrial areas in respect of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₁₀) and Particulate Matter less than or equal to 10 micron (PM₁₀) apart from real time monitoring in 16 cities.

The CPCB has undertaken a task of introduction of Air Quality Index (AQI), a tool for public information on the status of ambient air quality. The AQI has been loaded on the website of CPCB for suggestion and comments of public. It is not possible to indicate pollution level of mega cities as per AQI, as of now.

(c) The institutional mechanism of pollution control boards/committees for UTs is in place for monitoring and regulating the industrial pollution in accordance with the provisions of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention