

**Merger of State Pollution Control Board to NEMA**

2846.SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the TSR Subramanian Committee in its report has proposes that State pollution control boards be merged into State level equivalents of the National Environment Management Authority, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said TSR Subramanian Committee has recommended that project approvals should be granted not by the Ministry but by a new National Environment Management Authority and that they be made accountable to Government, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee in its report at Para 8.5 mentioned that the pollution control boards should be subsumed under NEMA and SEMA as the case may be in order to avoid duplication of authorities; the employees will be suitably absorbed. Since the new authorities, will function under the respective governments, the roles of the State Governments are preserved. It is suggested that ideally all the laws relating to environment should be integrated -- the sooner the better. In the first instance Water Act and Air Act and all the subordinate legislations under them can and should be harmonized.

(b) No, Sir. The NEMA will process applications for approval required under laws of category 'A' cases, based on prescribed parameters and present them with their recommendations to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for final decision. The approval will be granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

**Environmental clearance for Hubli-Ankola new railway line project**

2847.DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status for pending clearance of Hubli-Ankola new railway line project of Karnataka;

(b) the recommendations of Central Empowered Committee (CEC), which has