

Environment clearances for minor minerals

531. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether district level authorities have been involved in the process of granting environmental clearances in minor mineral based cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have raised questions on the ambiguity of the role of district level authorities and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Central Government is contemplating to make necessary changes in the National Mineral Policy to clear the doubts of the State Governments and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (d) Environmental clearance is granted as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 as amended from time to time. The Ministry, vide Notification dated 15.01.2016, for the first time, has delegated the Authority of Environmental Clearance up to 5 hectares of individual mining lease of minor minerals and 25 hectares in clusters to the District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (DEIAA) headed by the District Magistrate/District Collector. A District Expert Appraisal Committee (DEAC) has also been constituted. The Ministry has also notified the constitution of DEIAA and DEAC, vide Notification SO No. 190 (E) dated 20.01.2016. The Ministry has further clarified the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 and issued the amendments in the EIA Notification, 2006 on 01.07.2016 for mining of minor minerals, related to large number of leases or quarry licenses of very small size in contiguous area. Changes to various policies are considered from time to time and is an ongoing process, including National Mineral Policy.

Blue Flag Standards for beaches

532. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has started a pilot project to develop the Indian beaches according to the Blue Flag Standards;

(b) whether beaches from the coastal States had been chosen for the Blue Flag certification under the project; and

(c) if so, the details of beaches that have been selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project Phase-I, this Ministry has piloted the Beach Environment and Aesthetic Management System (BEAMS) Programme. Under this programme, various activities related to pollution abatement, beach awareness, aesthetics, safety and surveillances services and awareness programmes on environment education etc. have been planned in identified beaches, aimed at achieving international standards for Blue Flag Beach Certification.

(b) and (c) Under this project, one pilot beach in each of 13 coastal States/Union Territories has been identified. The list of these beaches is given in the Statement.

Statement

List of beaches identified under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Nominated Beach*
1.	Gujarat	Shivrajpur
2.	Maharashtra	Bhogve
3.	Goa	Miramar
4.	Karnataka	Padubidri
5.	Kerala	Kappad
6.	Tamil Nadu	Mahabalipuram
7.	Andhra Pradesh	Rushikonda
8.	Odisha	Chandrabagha
9.	West Bengal	Tajpur
10.	Diu	Ghoghla
11.	Lakshadweep	Bangaram
12.	Puducherry	Emerald
13.	Andaman and Nicobar	Radhanagar

* The Beach nominations are subject to change, based on technical parameters/requests of State Governments.

Impact of rising temperatures and erratic rainfall patterns

533. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a World Bank report released last week has indicated that rising