

The Clause 22 (14) of the draft EIA Notification 2020 clearly specifies that the project proponent is liable for action under Section 15/19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which provides for penalty or imprisonment or both in case of contravention of the Act. In addition, the draft notification also lays down additional liability on the project proponent for causing damage to the environment through assessment of environment damage caused, remedial and community -augmentation plans (reference clause 22(5) of the draft notification).

(c) and (d) The number of activities exempted from public hearing has been reduced from 9 in ETA 2006 [Refer clause 7(111) of EIA 2006] to 7 activities in Draft EIA 2020 [Clause 14(2) of Draft EIA 2020]. Further, the requirement of public hearing has not been exempted for any large projects or activities. In Draft EIA 2020, the public consultation has been proposed for exemption for certain category of projects or activities in respect of MSME sector and projects adopting clean technology.

Concerns in draft EIA Notification

838. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) reasons Government did not publish the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification in regional languages as required by the law;

(b) actions taken by Government to clear the concerns of citizens regarding the EIA Notification;

(c) whether Government has received objections from the State Governments on the proposed Notification; and

(d) if so, whether Government is ready to make amendments avoiding the current proposals which would seriously lead to exploitation of nature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The draft EIA Notification, 2020 has been issued in accordance with the Article 346 of Constitution of India; Official Languages Act, 1963 and Official Languages Rules, 1976. Further, Rule 5(3) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 mandates notification in Official Gazette. Therefore, as per the requirement under Article 346 of Constitution of India; Official Languages Act, 1963 and Official Languages Rules, 1976, the Central Government published the draft notification both in Hindi and in English through the Official Gazette.

(b) to (d) The draft EIA Notification, 2020 *vide* S.O. 1199(E) dated the 23rd March, 2020 was published in the official gazette on 11th April, 2020, for the information of the public likely to be affected thereby and for making any objections or suggestions on the proposal contained in the draft notification within sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette containing said draft notification were made available to the Public. The Ministry is in receipt of comments/suggestions/views from various stakeholders including different State Governments. An Expert Committee has been constituted for review/deliberation on the comments and suggestions received on the draft Notification.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to environment

839. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to environment;
- (b) the current level of achievement of such goals;
- (c) whether India will be able to achieve such goals by 2030; and
- (d) if so, the timeline for achieving such goals by 2030?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a comprehensive list of 17 Global Goals and 169 associated targets, which integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. Goal 12 'Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns', Goal 13 'Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts' and Goal 15 'Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss', are directly related to environment.

(b) to (d) The SDGs came into effect on 1st January 2016 and are to be achieved by end of year 2030. NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the role to co-ordinate SDG monitoring in the country. NITI Aayog has done the mapping of all the SDGs and associated targets with the Central Ministries, Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Schemes as well as major government initiatives. Central Ministries are striving to achieve the SDG targets by 2030 through the implementation of different development