

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 518
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Constitution of EAC of the Ministry

518. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:

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

- (a) whether Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Ministry has been constituted recently;
- (b) if so, the details along with the composition thereof;
- (c) the detailed criteria adopted for constitution of EAC;
- (d) whether conflict of interest has been reported in appointment of advisors to EAC of the Ministry; and
- (e) if so, the details of the inquiry initiated and remedial action taken in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c) The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) is a multi-disciplinary sectoral appraisal committee comprising of various subject matter experts for screening, scoping and appraisal of Projects / Activities specified under the EIA Notification, 2006, as amended. There are nine EACs at the Central level which have been constituted for appraisal of different categories of projects viz. Thermal & Coal Mining, Non-coal Mining, Infrastructure, Industries, River Valley and Hydro-electric Projects and Nuclear, Strategic & Defence. These committees are reconstituted after every three years with maximum 15 members as per the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006, as amended, provided that wherever considered necessary and expedient, the Central Government may extend the term for a further period not exceeding twelve months. Recently, the River Valley and Hydro-electric Projects (RVHEP), Thermal & Coal Mining sector, Infra 1 & Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) sector and Industry 3 sector have been re-constituted following due process.

The EACs comprise Experts as per the provisions prescribed under Appendix VI of the EIA, Notification, 2006. The composition of all EACs is available in the public domain on PARIVESH portal of the Ministry.

(d) and (e) EAC is mainly a recommendatory body and the decision of EAC is taken by consensus on the principles of collective responsibility. At central level, decision regarding clearing of Projects / Activities are taken by the Ministry taking into account the recommendation of EAC. As part of the due diligence during reconstitution of EACs, No-

Conflict of interest certificates are also obtained from the expert members after their selection has been approved by the competent authority based on their expertise in relevant field. The selected members are expected to disclose clearly if there is any conflict of interest between their role as member of EAC and their current assignment. Wrong disclosure on their part may make them ineligible for membership of the EAC and further lead to their removal from the concerned Committee.
