

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2459**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2018

**Environmental/Forest Clearances**

2459. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:  
SHRIMATI V. SATHYA BAMA:  
SHRI G. HARI:

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

- (a) whether a number of major projects are pending for grant of environmental/forest clearances;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the number of years since the said project is pending including the present status of each of the project, sector and State-wise;
- (c) the number of proposals/projects seeking environmental/forest clearances received online through the web portal and the details of such projects/proposals cleared so far;
- (d) whether the Government has decided to clear projects within a strict time period; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to clear all the pending projects expeditiously?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) to (c) The environmental clearance process for new projects will comprise maximum of four stages, Screening; Scoping; Public Consultation and Appraisal, all of which may not apply to particular cases as set forth in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. The Ministry received 2892 applications for environmental clearances since inception of online submission out of which 1862 environmental clearances were accorded. Similarly, Ministry received 3082 applications for forest clearances and out of which 2032 forest clearances were accorded.

(d) The average time period for environmental clearances has come down from 600 days to to 140 days now. The year wise details of average time taken for grant of environmental clearance is as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of days taken to grant Environment Clearance</b>
Prior to 2014	600 days
2015	184
2016	223
2017	177
2018	140

(e) The Ministry has taken several steps to expedite the process of environmental and forest clearances which *inter alia* include online system of processing of environmental clearances, introduction of Short Message Service (SMS) functionality for Project proponent, auto alert system; separate module to track the progress of recommended projects, delegation of powers to Regional Empowered Committee (REC) to dispose of proposals seeking forest clearance to linear projects, etc.

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