

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 955
FOR ANSWER ON 11/12/2023

STEEL PROJECTS AWAITING ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE

955. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of Steel be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of steel projects awaiting environmental clearance in the country;
- (b) the present status of the special purpose vehicles and special mining zones to attract investment in the Steel Sector; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by Government for speedy environmental clearance for the said projects?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL

(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a) Total 21 (twenty-one) Environmental clearance proposals are under various stages of consideration in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). All proposals submitted at Central/State levels for granting EC are appraised by Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)/State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) by the MoEFCC or State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) as per EIA Notification 2006 and as amended.

(b) There are no special purpose vehicles or special mining zones under the Ministry of Steel.

(c) A number of steps have been taken by the Central Government to streamline and expedite decisions on Environment Clearances, which inter-alia includes the following:

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has launched a single window online PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single-Window Hub) portal on 10th August, 2018 in an effort to automate the entire process of clearances.
- Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) meetings for appraisal of projects for EC at Central level are now conducted twice a month in the MoEFCC.
- Various other initiatives have also been taken by the MoEFCC through administrative, policy and technological intervention to remove redundancies and to ensure transparent and simplified process of clearance without compromising on rigor of the Environmental concerns.
- Due to various measures/initiatives taken by the MoEFCC, the average time in grant of EC has been significantly reduced as compared to the prescribed timelines i.e. 105 days as mentioned in the EIA Notification, 2006.