

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:232

ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014

SPEEDY CLEARANCE TO BORDER PROJECTS

Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether the delay in environmental clearance has blocked development of military infrastructure along Line of Actual Control (LAC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of this Ministry thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to give fast track approvals for construction of border roads and other strategically important projects coming within 100 Km of the LAC;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the policy formulated/ proposed to be formulated for the purpose; and
- (e) the time by which the new policy will be formulated and implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) It has been observed by the Central Government that due to the lengthy processes involved in grant of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, many important defence Projects, especially the border roads in areas close to Line of Actual Control (LAC) are getting delayed.

With a view to expedite creation of requisite road network along the LAC, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has accorded general approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for (i) construction and widening of two lane roads by the Border Road Organization (BRO) and other road construction agencies entrusted with the job by the Ministry of Defence, in the area falling within 100 kilometers aerial distance from the LAC; and (ii) widening of roads (by the BRO and other road construction agencies) which are identified by the Ministry of Defence as link roads, between Border Roads in the area within 100 kilometer aerial distance from the LAC and National Highways/State Highways/Other State Roads.

The MoEFCC has also requested the Ministry of Defence to identify strategic defence infrastructure related activities which are to be taken up in the area within 100 km distance from the LAC and submit the list of such activities along with the proposal for grant of General Approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for such projects.

The MoEFCC has also requested the Ministry of Defence to submit a proposal along with justification for granting relaxation in respect of applicability of Forest Rights Act, 2006 to all strategic defence projects (including infra-structure and road projects) being taken up in the area within 100 km of the LAC by any user agency identified by the Ministry of Defence.