

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6979
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2000
SELLING OF TREES
RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a): whether the Railways had decided to cut down and sell trees on its land;
- (b): if so, the estimated income to be earned therefrom, zone-wise; (
- (c): the number of trees cut down alongwith the income earned therefrom so far, zone-wise;
- (d): whether environmentalists were consulted prior to taking decision of cutting down these trees; and
- (e): if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (e) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6979 BY SHI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.05.2000 REGARDING SELLING OF TREES.

(a) and (b): The cutting/harvesting of matured/dried trees and natural products like sale of grass/fruit/fishing rights etc., is a continuous process. Census of matured trees is taken periodically but it is difficult to assess the likely total earnings out of sale of mature trees as this varies widely with specie and location of the tree.

(c): An amount of about Rs. 4,22,87,019 has been earned from sale of matured trees/sale of grass/fruit/fishing rights etc. during the year 1999-2000. The Zonal-Railway wise break up of earnings is as under:

Railway	Earnings from Mature Trees (1999-2000)
Central	10,92,796
Eastern	20,70,366
Northern	1,59,53,600
North Eastern	1,25,24,000
Northeast Frontier	5,77,358
Southern	75,24,000
South Central	10,23,870
South Eastern	2,21,029
Western	13,00,000
Total	4,22,87,019

(d) & (e): Railways cut only those mature trees which have been planted by it over the past 4 decades. Moreover, Railways plant a far larger number of trees than it cuts. Cutting and planting of trees being a continuous process. Since only matured trees are harvested/proposed to be harvested and a far larger number are planted, no adverse effect on the environment is expected. Also, the trees are harvested in consultation with the Forest Departments and after obtaining due clearances.