

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2406
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005
PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN COMMERCIAL PLANTATION
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are considering to encourage private participation in commercial plantation on its vacant land;
- (b) if so, whether Railways propose to enter into the joint- ventures with private parties to promote plantation of various commercial trees;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether earlier the Railways used to lease out land to the Forest Department for plantation; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for not providing land to the Forest Department for plantation now?

Answer

MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

- (a) to (c): Yes, Sir. Railways have taken up commercial plantation on its land as one of the non-tariff measures to raise internal resources while at the same time protecting its valuable land from encroachment. Under the scheme, Joint Venture (JV) partner is allowed to undertake plantation on railway land at its own cost and the revenue so earned is shared by Railway with JV partner on 50 : 50 basis.
- (d) & (e): Railway land in between the mid-Sections has been entrusted to the Forest Departments of respective State Governments on various locations. No such decision has been taken for giving `no land` to forest department. However Railways has been experiencing many problems viz non-execution of agreements, declaration of railway land as Protected / Reserve Forests, non-payment of nominal licence fee etc. with forest departments especially in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh etc..