

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2817
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND FOR RAILWAY PROJECTS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) the details of the total forest area diverted for railway projects in the country from 2001 to 2004, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken up any afforestation schemes to make good of such loss of forests;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the funds released and spent during the said period, State-wise; and
- (d) if not, by when such works are to be taken up by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) 1896.78 ha of forest area has been diverted for railway projects in the country from 2001 to 2004, State-wise details of diverted forest area are given in Annexure-I
- (b) & (c) yes, the diverted forest area is made good of by undertaking Compensatory Afforestation. In respect of railway projects cleared from 2001 to 2004, compensatory afforestation is contemplated on an area of 3099.15 ha. The details of funds released and utilized for compensatory afforestation are not maintained in the Ministry. However, as per the information made available by the State Forest Departments, the user agencies have provided an amount of Rs. 7.23 crores for the purpose of compensatory afforestation. Against this an amount of Rs. 75.01 lakhs has been utilized so far. State-wise details of funds released and spent during the said period are given in Annexure-II.
- (d) since raising of Compensatory Afforestation is an ongoing activity, no time frame can be fixed for it.