

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:324
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010
NEW RAILWAY LINE PROJECTS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has rejected various projects of new railway lines on the grounds that they required diversion of forest lands;
- (b) if so, the details of such rejected projects during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, with areas of forest land required for these projects;
- (c) whether the Government had accorded sanction to certain Railway line projects during this period even though they caused diversion of forest lands; and
- (d) if so, the details of such projects with the area of forest lands diverted during this period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) & (b) The Central Government has rejected few projects of new railway lines during the last three years and the current year. Besides diversion of forest land, the grounds on which they have been rejected include, bifurcation of vital wildlife habitats posing threats to the mega-fauna like elephant, tiger and also displacement of tribals. The list of such rejected projects is at Annexure-A.
- (c) & (d) The Central Government has accorded sanctions to the railway line projects during this period after evaluating their likely adverse impact on the forest land being diverted and stipulating mitigative measures. In most of the cases, low cost-benefit ratio has also favoured the approval of the projects. The list of such sanctioned projects is at Annexure-B.