

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2689
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2009
RAILWAY LAND
Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Haryana had proposed to enter into an agreement with the Northern Railway for afforestation and management of waste lands along rail lines in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the status of the proposal as on date; and
- (d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI K.H.MUNIYAPPA)

(a) to (d): Yes, Madam. State Forest Department, Government of Haryana has proposed to enter into an agreement with Northern Railway in respect of management of Railway land in the State of Haryana for afforestation. However, the agreement could not mature because of the fact that Railway land given earlier to Forest Department, Government of Haryana had been declared as 'Protected Forest' under Indian Forest Act, 1927 by Haryana Government. Due to this declaration, Railways are unable to undertake cutting / pruning of trees, which obstruct signals and thereby affects safe train operations. Railways are also unable to carry out emergency works as well as developmental works due to the declaration of Railway land as 'Protected Forest'.

Suitable modifications to the draft agreement have been suggested by Northern Railway to safeguard against the above. The execution of agreement is subject to the acceptance of suggested changes by the Forest Department, Government of Haryana.