

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1056  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011  
FOREST AREA FOR RAILWAY LINE PROJECT  
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to reduce the size of the forest area proposed to be diverted for Hubli-Ankola new Railway Line project in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details and the finding thereof:
- (c) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to examine the said project:
- (d) if so, the details thereof:
- (e) whether the Committee has submitted the report to the Government; and
- (f) if so, the details and findings thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) The Forest Advisory Committee had recommended in its meeting held on 25.10.2004 to critically revise the proposal in consultation with Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore, Ministry of Environment and Forests and submit a revised proposal for construction of railway line along with the details of the alternatives explored.

(c) to (f) Also, a committee was constituted to carry out study on the proposed Hubli-Ankola Railway line with the following members:-

1. Additional Director General of Forests (Forest Conservation), Ministry of Environment and Forests
2. Regional Chief Conservator of Forests(Central), Regional Office, Bangalore
3. Chief Wildlife Warden Karnataka

The Committee submitted its report during February 2010. The field visit by the Committee has brought out the perspective from both conservation as well as development angle. The Committee has not made any recommendation as the matter is now pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India through the Central Empowered Committee.