

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2555
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014
GIS BASED SYSTEM FOR FOREST CLEARANCE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has introduced the first version of the Geographical Information System (GIS) based Decision Support System for forest clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted empowered committees at regional levels and delegated decision making powers to them for linear projects like railway lines, transmission lines, highways and pipelines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) On 11th November 2014 the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change launched first version of a Geographical Information System (GIS) based Decision Support System (DSS) to facilitate objective and informed and predictable decisions on applications seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose.

The DSS developed by the Forest Survey of India contains geo-referenced layers of Forest Cover as per the latest State of Forest Report prepared by the Forest Survey of India, Forest Types, Biological Richness, Landscape Integrity, Protected Areas, Tiger Reserves, Tiger Corridor and 1 Km x 1 Km India grid..

(c) & (d) On 10th October 2014 Central Government published in the official gazette the Forest (Conservation) Second Amendment Rules, 2014 to provide for inter-alia constitution of Regional Empowered Committee (REC) at each of its Regional Offices and delegation of power to these RECs to finally dispose of proposals, other than those related to mining, regularization of encroachment and hydel projects, involving diversion of upto 40 hectares of forest land, and all proposals related to linear projects such as roads, railway lines etc. irrespective of the area of forest land involved. These Rules came into force on 1st November 2014.