GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 60**
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2019

**Biodiversity assessment study to assess environmental consequences of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway**

60. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any biodiversity assessment study has been undertaken to assess the ecological, environmental and social consequences of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, If so, detailed thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has proposed any plan to stablise the socio-ecological stability on the basis that the project will pass through ecological areas and conservation zones in the northern and central India; and

(c) whether Government has any scheme for the conservation of forests and rehabilitation of the people displaced from forest areas, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
**(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

(a) & (b) A Biodiversity Assessment study has been carried out for the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway as a part of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies and the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), as per provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

The EIA studies/EMP inter alia address the issues related to flora, fauna and other ecological and social aspects of the project corridor and the surrounding areas, including the mitigation measures. The site specific sustainable measures, as per the EIA/EMP reports, in consultation with the State Governments, would help in safe movement of fauna, conservation of their habitat and the overall ecology of the region.

(c) Under the Green India Mission (GIM), afforestation activities have been undertaken over an area of approx. 87,114 ha in twelve states namely Andhra

Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Sikkim.

Under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 there is provision for rehabilitation scheme for projects involving rehabilitation of people. The Central Government has also provided detailed guidelines in case of voluntary relocation of people from Sanctuaries and National Parks and a voluntary relocation package amounting to Rs. 10 lakh is provided per eligible family in such instances.

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