GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 694
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2021

Pollution due to Central Vista Redevelopment Project

694 SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has considered the impact of the Central Vista Redevelopment project on the air pollution levels;
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government is aware that nearly 416 sq. km of dense forest cover will be needed to offset the carbon footprint of the project; and
(d) if so, the steps being taken to address the same and if not, whether the Ministry has alternate estimates of the forest cover needed to offset the carbon footprint?

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

(a) to (d) The Ministry, has granted Environment Clearance for expansion and renovation of Existing Parliament Building by M/s Central Public Works Department Parliament House at plot number 116 and 118 at Central Vista, New Delhi. The Environmental Clearance, issued to the project, mandates conditions including, *inter-alia*, compliance to Notification GSR 94(E) dated 25.01.2018 of MoEF&CC regarding dust mitigation measures for construction and demolition activities; implementation of plan to contain exceedance in ambient air quality at the site; implementation of Traffic Management Plan, etc.

The Ministry has also issued Terms of Reference (ToR) for preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Development/Redevelopment of Common Central Secretariat Buildings, Central Conference Centre along with other buildings by M/s Central Public Works Department at plot Nos. 137,120, 22A, 22B, 22C, 23D, 23C, 23B, 138, A&B Hutments, Part of plot 30B and 108 at Central Vista New Delhi.

Both the proposals do not involve diversion of forest land. The project for expansion and renovation of existing Parliament Building envisages implementation of energy conservation measure to reduce carbon footprint. Compensatory plantation against tree cutting as per Delhi Tree Preservation Act are prescribed along-with various energy conservation measures with respect to offset the carbon foot print.

The ToR issued to the project, *inter-alia*, includes assessment of the cumulative impact of development activities within Central Vista Avenue and the preparation of Environmental Management Plan by the project proponent.

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