

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1814
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

Developmental activities in Great Nicobar Island

1814. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

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

- (a) the total area of Great Nicobar Island;
- (b) the area which has so far been diverted for developmental projects out of the total area;
- (c) the details of projects conceived in Great Nicobar Island and the extent of area to be used/diverted for them;
- (d) the details of projects that have already become operational;
- (e) the investments already made on the Island, project-wise, over the last five years; and
- (f) whether Government will ensure that the multi-billion transshipment port would not be constructed on an Island that experienced nearly 444 earthquakes in the last ten years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (e) As per information received from the UT Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the total area of Great Nicobar Island is 910 Sq. Km and the forest area of 97.90875 hectares have been diverted under the Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980 for 18 projects in Great Nicobar.

The details of 18 projects and their operational status along with the details of proposals wherein Stage-I (*in-principle*) approvals have been accorded by the Central Government are enclosed as **Annexure**. Moreover, the UT Administration has further informed that the data regarding the investments already made have not been compiled.

- (f) As per the terms and conditions for the grant of EC&CRZ clearance granted by MoEF&CC vide letter dt. 11.11.2022, all facilities such as Port, Power Plant and Township, etc. are to be designed to withstand seismic and Tsunami hazard.

Annexure

Annexure referred to the part (a) to (e) of the RSUQ No. 1814 dated 16.03.2023 regarding **Developmental activities in Great Nicobar Island** asked by SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:

S. No.	Name of the Projects an	Forest Area Diverted (in Ha)	Operational Status
Nicobar Forest Division			
1.	Diversion of 5 Ha of Forest Land for Quarrying of stone for construction work CE project Yatrik C/o 99 APO	5	Non-Operational
2.	Diversion of 6.9 ha of forest land for quarrying at North of Army land and 1.90 ha. of forest land for approach road to Yatrik Project in Great Nicobar	6.9	Non-Operational
3.	Diversion of 0.991 Ha of Forest Land for the Establishment of a stone quarry near 29 km of NS road in GNI CE, ALHW Port Blair.	0.99	Non-Operational
4.	Diversion of 0.16 Ha of Forest Land for Construction of lighted Beacon at Rosen Point, Director LH&LS	0.16	Operational
5.	Construction of road from Joginder Nagar to Shanti Nagar in GNI	29.860	Operational
6.	Diversion of 9.24 Ha (6.182 Ha of Forest Land & 3.058 Ha of Deemed Forest) of Forest Land for Construction of 6 km stretch of North South Road from Cambell Bay to Joginder Nagar in GNI APWD	9.24	Operational
7.	Felling of 485 Nos. Of naturally growing trees over 12.46 Ha. Of (revenue land bearing survey No 247/1) at LalTekri in GNI for establishment of Defence Signal Intelligence Unit	-	Operational
8.	Diversion of 0.90 ha of forest land for construction of Helipad at Indira point in GNI	0.9	Operational
9.	Diversion of 0.05 Ha of Forest Land for Installation of Smt. Indira Gandhi Statue (18 feet tall) at Indira Point in GNI	0.05	Operational
10.	Diversion of 8.425 ha of forest land for construction of NS road from KM 36.450 to 40.950 at Joginder	8.425	Operational
11.	Diversion of 0.15 Ha of Forest Land for Installation of very low power transmission at Joginder Nagar Electricity Dept.	0.15	Operational

12.	Diversion of 0.46 Ha of forest land for construction of Rural Road connecting North South Road with the permanent Shelter at Laxmi Nagar Campbell Bay	0.46	Operational
13.	Diversion of 0.09 Ha of forest land for construction of North South road near Joginder Nagar in GNI APWD	0.09	Operational
14.	Diversion of 0.75 Ha of forest land for construction of Rural Road from North South road to Chingam village, APWD	0.75	Operational
15.	Diversion of 4.425 ha of forest land in GNI for construction of NS Road from KM 40.950 to 43.450	4.425	Operational
16.	Diversion of 20.42875 ha of forest land for construction of N-S road sector Shastri Nagar to Indira Point from Km 46.610 to 60.385 (Phase-IV)	20.42875	Work in progress
17.	Diversion of forest land for construction of N-S road sector Shastri Nagar to Indira Point from KM 43.450 to KM 48.610 (length -5.610 KM) to enhanced CL-9 specification in Great Nicobar Islands. (Phase-III)	9.514	Work in progress
18.	Diversion of 0.566 Ha of Forest land in Great Nicobar for laying of underground OFC Cable	0.566	Work in progress
	Total	97.90875	
Projects Received and Stage-1 (In-principle) approval granted			
1	Diversion of 130.75 Sq. Km of forest land(121.87 Sq. Km of forest land and 8.88 Sq. Km of deemed forest land) in three phases under Section -2 (ii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for sustainable development in Great Nicobar.	13075	Not yet Operational
	Total	13075	
