

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2684**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

**Negative Impact of Forest Clearance for Andaman and Nicobar Islands Project**

2684 SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has granted in-principle clearance for diversion of forest land in Great Nicobar Island for “ Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands Project”; and
- (b) if so, the project details and the total forest land that will be diverted; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that this island is seismically volatile and home to large number of flora and fauna species; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the rationale of granting in-principle clearance for a project that can negatively impact the area?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d) The Central Government vide letter dated 27.10.2022 has accorded the ‘*in-principle*’/Stage-I approval for diversion of 130.75 Sq.km forest land for sustainable development in Great Nicobar Island. The project is of significant strategic and national importance.

Adequate mitigation measures have been proposed to compensate the impact of development on flora and fauna. The Biodiversity Conservation and Environment Protection are inherent in the conditions of Stage-1 approval accorded under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and those stipulated in EC&CRZ clearances.

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