

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 850
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

Pending environmental clearances in Odisha

850. SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ
SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI:

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

- (a) the details regarding infrastructure projects in Odisha pending environmental clearances as of June, 2023;
- (b) whether there is an ambiguity among States/UTs regarding the interpretation of the term 'Right of Way' mentioned in Government guidelines for environmental clearance for the execution of railway works; and
- (c) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to pave the way for the corporate bodies/public-private partnerships to execute infrastructure projects in forest areas without seeking permission from Government?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As of June 2023, total 16 proposals regarding infrastructure projects in Odisha are under different stages of consideration with the Ministry and State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Odisha, for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended. Further, 'Railway' as defined in Railways Act, 1989 does not attract EIA Notification, 2006 as amended. Therefore, the question of ambiguity regarding the term 'Right of Way' (RoW) for the purpose of EC for execution of Railway works does not arise. However, diversion of forest land shall attract forest clearance as per provision of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 as amended, if applicable.
