

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025

Clearance to Ropeway project in Shimla

2128. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether 13.79 km ropeways project in Shimla costing ₹1,734.70 crores has received Stage-1 approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and that 6.1909 hectares of forest land would be used in full compliance with all environmental and legal norms;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the project incorporates any climate-smart features to align with Green Himachal vision and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the initiatives taken to create direct and indirect employment opportunities during construction and operation of the project especially for youth?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d)The Central Government on 07.10.2025, has accorded Stage-1/In-principle approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam,1980 for the diversion of 6.109 ha forest land in favour of Ropeways and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation, Himachal Pradesh, for the construction and Implementation of Innovative Urban Transport (Ropeways, lifts and Escalators etc.) Project in Shimla city.

Ropeways, in particular, are a low-carbon mode of transport, significantly reducing vehicular traffic and associated emissions. They minimize land disturbance and energy consumption compared to conventional road-based transport systems. Further, the diversion of forestland for the above mentioned project has been allowed with adequate mitigation measures including the payment of NPV, raising of Compensatory Afforestation and Soil and moisture conservation works.

The project implementation is by the State Government and accordingly initiatives are taken by State Government for generation of employment opportunities.
