

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2009
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.03.2018**

COST OVERRUN

2009. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 60% railway projects out of the total 353 central sector projects are facing huge cost- over run due to various reasons and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) if whether likely conflicts between resource use of eco-tourism and the livelihood of local inhabitants have been identified and if so, the details of such projects and the reasons for the delay in their execution, zone-wise;**
- (c) the details of funds spent so far on the said project; and;**
- (d) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite execution of these projects to check any further cost escalation?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2009 BY SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.03.2018 REGARDING COST OVERRUN

(a) to (d): Execution of Railway project faces impediments like acquisition of land, statutory clearances like forestry and wildlife clearances, shifting of power lines & utilities, cutting of trees, construction of road over bridges and road under bridges by road maintaining agencies, etc. As a result, the period of execution of various projects gets prolonged. Moreover, funds to each project are allocated every year depending on the total budget outlay, progress made in each project and relative priority.

Many of the Railway projects pass through forest areas including reserve forest areas for which the diversion of forest land is obtained from Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change. As a part of forestry clearance, No Objection Certificate(NOC) is invariably obtained from the concerned District Collector under Forest Rights Act, 2006. Obtaining forestry clearance is a regular exercise wherever the Railway alignment passes through the forest land. As most of the projects involve forestry or wildlife clearance, the exact quantum of projects affected due to NOC under Forest Rights Act, 2006 and the fund spent thereon cannot be estimated.

To reduce delays on account of forestry clearances etc, the cases are pursued by concerned Zonal Railway Officials through regular correspondences and meetings with State Government officials and Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change at various levels.
