

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4217
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2019

Forest Rights Act, 2006

4217. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that IRCON has begun construction on the proposed Sevoke-Rangpo Rail Line without getting due clearance from concerned authorities including Local Gram Sabha as required under Forest Rights Act, 2006; and
- (b) the details of environment clearances and impact studies conducted for the construction of the said railway line which passes through wildlife corridors and biodiversity hotspots?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) The Sevoke-Rangpo Rail Line covers two States namely Sikkim and West Bengal. Stage-II/Final approval for Sikkim portion involving 11.8862 ha of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980 has been accorded on 17th August, 2015 after getting Forest Rights Act, 2006 certificate. In portion pertaining to West Bengal, Stage-I/in-principle approval for 86.6255 ha of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980 was accorded on 28th November, 2017 subject to certain conditions including compliance of Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- (b) Construction of railway line does not attract provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006 as amended from time to time. The said project was considered and recommended by Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife in its 34th meeting held on 02nd June, 2015 with certain conditions.
