

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1938
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021

Projects in Protected Areas

1938. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received several petitions and appeals from the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Environmentalists and others regarding three linear projects passing through protected areas of Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary, Mollem National Park and double tracking of railway/transmission lines in Western Ghats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken on these petitions/appeals thereon;
- (c) whether the Western Ghats are recognized as an UNESCO world heritage site besides being a global biodiversity hotspot; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for undertaking such huge infrastructure projects at the cost of environment?

ANSWER

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

- (a), (b),
(c) and (d)
- The Ministry has received several petitions and appeals from the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Environmentalists and others regarding three linear projects passing through protected areas of Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary, Mollem National Park and double tracking of railway/transmission lines in Western Ghats, Goa recommended in the 56th and 57th meetings of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life.

As per the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. (C) No. 202/1995 dated 5th October, 2015, minutes of these meetings were sent to the Central Empowered Committee.

The Western Ghats are recognized as UNESCO world heritage site besides being a global biodiversity hotspot.

The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life, comprising

expert members also, considers and takes informed decisions on the proposals falling within protected areas and Eco-sensitive Zones of the National Parks and Sanctuaries which have been recommended by the State/UT Governments, concerned State Board for Wild Life and Chief Wild Life Warden. In these cases also, the proposals had the recommendations of the State Government, State Board for Wild Life and the Chief Wild Life Warden.
