

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 925**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

**Exempted Category of Land under Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023**

925. SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH:

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

- (a) whether under the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, States land situated within 100 km along the international borders, Line of Control or Line of Actual Control, proposed to be used for construction of strategic linear project for national importance or security, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any Committee has been formed to decide on the benchmark of 100 km, if so, the recommendations of the said Committee;
- (c) whether in context of this Policy has the Government drawn any plans to protect the environment of Himalayan States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d) The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023, passed by the Parliament, inter-alia provided that such forest land, as is situated within a distance of hundred kilometres along international borders or Line of Control or Line of Actual Control, as the case may be, proposed to be used for construction of strategic linear project of national importance and concerning national security, shall not be covered under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 has been notified on 04.08.2023 and subsequently enforced by the Central Government w.e.f. 01.12.2023.

The extent of 100 km has been decided in consultation with the ministries and stakeholders concerned. Further, in accordance with the provisions of section 1A(3) of the Adhiniyam, the Central Government has issued guidelines on 29.11.2023 and 24.09.2024 specifying the terms and conditions to be abided by the States and Union territories while considering exemptions provided under section 1A(2) of the Adhiniyam.

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