

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1481
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

Environmental Impact due to doubling of Railway Track

1481. MR PATHAN YUSUF:

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

- (a) whether it is true that the proposed doubling of railway line between Karnataka and Goa passes through a critical tiger habitat, an elephant corridor and ecologically sensitive areas;
- (b) the reason for granting of forest clearances by the Government despite the Wildlife Institute of India's (WII) report highlighting the negative impact on flora and fauna; and
- (c) the rationale behind granting clearances for the double track when the single track itself has caused 341 animal deaths between February and April 2023 as per WII findings and the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The proposals for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes received from the State Governments are examined on their merits, including assessment of their direct and indirect impacts on forests and wildlife. Infrastructure projects proposed in areas of high conservation value or rich biodiversity are examined meticulously.

In cases where diversion of forest land is unavoidable and duly justified, such proposals are considered by the Central Government, subject to the implementation of adequate mitigation measures, including the preparation of site-specific Wildlife Management Plans and the provision of wildlife underpasses/overpasses, as applicable.

The Ministry has also developed a guidance document through the Wildlife Institute of India, titled "Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife", which prescribes standard mitigation measures to be adopted for linear infrastructure projects in order to minimise adverse impacts on wildlife and their habitats.
