

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:718

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007

SURVEY OF FOREST LAND FOR HUBLI -ANKOLA RAILWAY LINE

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to undertake joint survey of the forest land proposed to be diverted for Hubli-Ankola new railway line;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be done?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (c) The proposal submitted by the State Government of Karnataka to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of a new Hubli-Ankola Railway Line was rejected on merit. However, in view of a representation submitted by some Members of Parliament, the proposal was reconsidered. It was observed that the proposal in the original form would disturb the ecology of the area, which is ecologically sensitive. Further, the existing Railway Line and the National Highway are under-utilized, and alternatives had not been explored by the Railway Department. Therefore, the Ministry advised the Ministry of Railways, to critically revise the proposal in consultation with the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangalore, and reduce the requirement of the forest area. Subsequently, a revised proposal was directly submitted by the South Western Railway without recommendations of the State Government. The Ministry sought the comments of the State Government on the revised proposal / modifications suggested by the South Western Railway. Response from the State Government is awaited.