

**Demand to link the Centrally Sponsored Schemes with the
National E- Governance Plan**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, this is to bring to the attention of the House that through the Government has implemented several initiatives to promote digital revolution in the country, the results seem to vanish in the foray of several problems connected with it. Accessibility, literacy and infrastructure have been some of the major causes which have derailed the e-governance projects. Moreover, individual States have been trying to implement the National E-Governance Plan in their respective States. But, with the plan now de-linked from the Centrally-Sponsored Schemes, the State Governments have hit an important budgetary allocation for the same.

Despite this, the State of West Bengal, under the leadership of the hon. Chief Minister, has successfully implemented the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) Project in the State for on-line real time management monitoring, control of all fund allocations, financial transactions in different departments and their subordinate offices under the State Government. The project facilitates fund allocation to the administrative departments, Drawing and Disbursing Officers and financial transactions, including entire Treasury Management System to ensure transparency, accuracy and efficiency in fund and financial management. The project was recently applauded and bagged the highest award for e-governance among the States. Seamless implementation has helped in reducing time, decreased rent seeking and increased transparency.

Thus, I would urge the Government to reconsider linking National E-governance through CSS for the benefit of all.

Thank you.

Demand to take strict measures for cleaning railway platforms and tracks

SHRI ANIL DESAI (Maharashtra): Sir, the Railway authorities should not be surprised or taken aback on the fine of ₹ 5 lakh imposed by National Green Tribunal for dirty platforms and railway tracks. The NGT Railway tracks in Mumbai and in other States have the same story to tell. It is the collective responsibility of the authorities to ensure that the people are provided with clean environment, and the facts in the present case clearly show the intent of shifting the blame from one authority to another.

The Tribunal also directed the Railways, NDMC and DUSIB to place dustbins at all appropriate places as earmarked by the local Commissioner. I welcome the warning to the authorities that if they fail to ensure cleanliness on the railway property in the future, the Bench would resort to more 'coercive' measures.

In the interest and well-being of the common people, particularly those living near the railway tracks, in jhuggies, the NGT must be stricter in the matter. Thank you.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am totally disappointed at this unruly behaviour. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House stands adjourned till 12.00 hours. ...*(Interruptions)*...

The House then adjourned at forty-four minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

Steps taken to increase land under forests

*151. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) how much percentage of land in the country is under forests;
- (b) whether this percentage has changed during the last few years and if so, the details thereof along with data of each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the current percentage of land under forests in the country is satisfactory; and
- (d) if not, what is the ideal percentage and what are the steps taken by Government to increase the percentage of land under forests in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per India State of Forest Report-2015, the total forest cover in the country is 7,01,673 square kilometres which is 21.34% of the total geographical area of the country.

(b) The Forest Survey of India has been carrying out assessment of forest cover on biennial basis since 1987 using remote sensing technology. India State of Forest Report-2015 has been released recently. The total forest cover and percentage thereof as per India State of Forest Reports 2011, 2013 and 2015 are given as under:-

Sl. No.	Year	Total forest cover (in Square Kilometre)	Percentage of the forest cover to the total geographical area	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1	India State of Forest Report-2011	692,027/-	21.05	—