

Sea link connecting Mumbai to the Mainlands

1835. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

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

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for a sea link (Sewri-nava Sea Link Project) connecting Mumbai to the mainland in order to reduce congestion in the Island city, for the environmental clearance;

(b) if so, whether the project was conceptualized in 1984; and

(c) the steps taken for clearance of the project; and the extent of cost escalation suffered by the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Steering Group appointed by the Government of Maharashtra had recommended the Bombay Trans-Harbour Link Project in 1984.

(c) The project was considered by the Expert Committee for Infrastructure Development and Miscellaneous Projects, constituted by Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, on 9-1-2004. The Committee has sought a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report from the Project Proponent. As per the Questionnaire for environmental appraisal submitted by the project proponent in October, 2003, the capital cost of the project is Rs. 6,600 crores.

Social Forestry

1836. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) The amount proposed to be spent for social forestry in Assam in this year,

(b) whether there is any monitoring Agency to monitor the work relating to the plantation and whether any records of death or survival of plants are kept; and

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) the details of States which are doing excellent work in social forestry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the information made available by the state Government of Assam, total allocation under State Plan and Non-Plan Budgets for social forestry during the year 2004-05 is Rs. 1618.86 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. Social Forestry Wing of the State Forest Department has a monitoring unit which maintains records of survival of plants. In addition, ministry of Environment and Forests also undertakes evaluation of survival of plantations carried out under 20 Point Programme through independent agencies/experts in 50 selected districts of the country each year.

(c) States like Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal have exceeded the targets of plantations under 20 Point Programme during 2003-04.

**Environmental hazard by fly ash and
blast furnace slag**

1837. **SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 100 million metric tonnes of fly ash from thermal power plants and 10 million tonnes of blast furnace slag from steel plants constitute a major environmental hazard;

(b) if so, to what extent the cement industry is utilising these hazardous wastes to curtail use of conventional limestone and gypsum, and

(c) the measures being taken to attain optimum utilisation of fly ash and furnace slag?