

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (f) Due to the construction of Ahmedabad -Mumbai High Speed Rail, the total forest area that would be lost, including mangrove forest, is as follows:

Sl. No.	Taluka	Protected, Reserved and Private Forest (area in ha)	Mangrove Forest (area in ha)	Total forest (area in ha)
1.	Thane	16.1196	12.3244	28.444
2.	Vasai	22.2922	1.4775	23.7697
3.	Bhiwandi	0.08828	10.3351	10.42338
4.	Palghar	34.1912	0	34.1912
5.	Dahanu	29.0578	0	29.0578
6.	Talasari	5.4155	0	5.4155
	TOTAL	107.1646	24.137	131.3016

No proposal for this project has been received in this Ministry so far. Further, railway projects are not covered within the ambit of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, hence do not require prior environment clearance.

As far as forest clearance is concerned, amount towards compensatory afforestation for the loss of forest land is levied and also for the loss of ecosystem services, net present value is levied from the user agency.

Aadhaar linking for MGNREGA

*262. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aadhaar linking for MGNREGA enrolments has been mandated, if so, reasons therefor;

(b) total number and percentage of workers who linked their Aadhaar numbers to job cards and whether this has benefited the scheme and if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government is providing and promoting an Aadhaar opt-out option, if so, progress made thereof;

(d) if not, reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government has conducted or is aware of any study conducted to evaluate benefits of Aadhaar linking in timelines of payments, increasing enrolment, removing corruption and identifying fakes and duplicates and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) The use of Aadhaar linking for enrollment in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) has been mandated to bring in transparency and efficiency and to enable the workers to get their entitlements in a convenient and seamless manner in pursuance with the provisions of Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

(b) As of now, against the 11.69 crore active MGNREGA workers, the Aadhaar number of 10.37 crore (89%) active workers have been seeded into MGNREGA programme database (NREGASoft). Use of Aadhaar under MGNREGA has brought transparency in the system and minimized leakages of fund.

(c) and (d) As informed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), it has not created any general option to exit from the Aadhaar scheme. Pursuant to the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (C) No. 494 of 2012, dated 26th September, 2018, such an exit option has only been mandated for children who have been enrolled with consent of their parents provided that they do not intend to avail the benefits of the scheme. No general option to exit for Aadhaar was laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as a binding direction and consequently no such option has been created.

(c) No such study to evaluate benefits of Aadhaar linking in respect of MGNREGA, has been got conducted by the Ministry.

Geo-tagging of rural development works

*263. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started using geo-tagging as an audit technique for rural development works, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the collaboration in this regard;

(c) the details of schemes where geo-tagging is being used;