

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UASTARRED QUESTION NO. 566
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

Non-Permanent Structures at Tourist Destinations

566. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the construction of non-permanent structures for eco-tourism has been removed from the ambit of non-forest activities;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the construction of even non-permanent structures may harm forest areas and create disturbances in local ecology; and
- (d) the steps that Government has planned to ensure that these areas remain protected?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b) In order to remove the ambiguity in the provisions related to ecotourism in the Comprehensive Guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Ministry has issued revised guideline dated 25.10.2021, wherein it has been clarified that *“Development/construction of facilities which are not of permanent nature, in forest areas for the purpose of ecotourism by Government authorities shall not be considered as non-forestry activity for the purpose of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980”*.
- (c) & (d) Eco-tourism is a form of responsible tourism in natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of people. In order to promote low impact nature tourism which ensures ecological integrity of the eco-tourism sites and its environment, the Ministry vide letter dated 29.10.2021 has issued the *“Guidelines on Sustainable Eco-Tourism in Forest and Wildlife Areas”*.
