

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:800

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004

IMPACT OF CLEARING OF FORESTS ON WILDLIFE

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Uday

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

(a) whether eminent environmentalists have expressed concern over the increasing threat to wildlife due to clearing of forests for developmental projects as reported in the Hindu dated October 6, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the wildlife and forest land have been grossly misused for other purposes and the various agencies have failed to protect the same; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the concrete steps taken by the Government to protect them fully ?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major issues highlighted by the activists, NGOs and others in their letter dated 4th October 2004, are at Annexure.

(c) & (d) Forest land and wildlife habitat are protected by various laws including the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. All cases of diversion and use of forest as well as wildlife habitats for non forestry purposes are regulated under the provisions of these laws and the orders of Hon`ble Supreme Court issued from time to time. The cases are examined by the expert committees and decisions are taken after due consideration of laws and policies of the Government as well as the directives of the Hon`ble Supreme Court.

**ANNEXURE**

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 800 REGARDING IMPACT OF CLEARING OF FORESTS ON WILDLIFE BY SHRI UDAY SINGH AND SHRIADHIR CHOWDHURY DUE FOR REPLY ON 6.12.2004

The major issues highlighted by the activists, NGO`s and others in their letter dated 4th October 2004 are as given below:

1. Wildlife habitats and populations continue to be under serious threat from `development` projects across India.
2. Several kinds of development projects have been granted clearance despite extremely poor environmental impact assessment, including blatantly plagiarized studies.
3. Several destructive development projects have been allowed inside or immediately bordering protected areas.
4. Several clearances have been granted completely ignoring the citizens, inputs.
5. The National Board for Wildlife and Expert Committees for environmental clearance have been weakened.
6. Compensatory mechanism for clearance of projects cannot be substitute for sound decision making based on comprehensive environmental and social impact assessment.
- 7 Repeated dilutions of notifications under the Environment protection Act have made wildlife habitats and sensitive ecosystems more vulnerable to development pressures.