

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6375
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
CLEARANCE TO FOREST ROADS
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has given a blanket clearance for upgradation of temporary forest roads;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has issued fresh guidelines regarding upgradation of roads in protected areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b): Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Rules made there under, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued guidelines dated 30th April 2005 for up-gradation of roads from 'Kutchha to Pucca' constructed in forest areas prior to 1980 to the extent that these roads are not black topped/tarred, and if during the process of up-gradation, these roads need to be black topped/tarred, prior environmental clearance be sought by the user agency in this regard.

(c)&(d): While issuing above guidelines, the Ministry has highlighted that for such up-gradation in protected areas like National Park / Sanctuaries, prior permission of National Board of Wildlife and the Supreme Court of India shall be taken by State / UT Government. The Supreme Court vide its order dated 25.11.2005 in I.A. Nos. 1430-1432 in W.P.(C) No. 202/1995 has, inter-alia, permitted various activities such as removal of weeds, clearing and burning of vegetation for fire lines, maintenance of fair weather roads, habitat improvement, digging temporary water holes, construction of anti-poaching camps, chowkies, check posts, entry barriers, water towers, small civil works, research and monitoring activities, etc., for protection and conservation of the protected areas.