

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6235

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2010

REFORESTATION BY NHAI

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Chaudhary Shri Jayant;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Krishnaswamy Shri M.;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

**Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the guidelines and the criteria adopted by the Government/National Highways Authority of India for cutting and planting of the trees at the time of construction of the National Highways;
- (b) whether the Government/NHAI has made any assessment regarding deforestation caused due to National Highway development and set any targets for reforestation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the funds sanctioned, released and utilised for the purpose and achievements made during each of the last three years, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the amount of compensation deposited with the forest department for reforestation during the said period, Statewise;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to engage Public-Private Partnership mode in this regard;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) The Rules and Guidelines laid down by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) / State Governments regarding cutting and planting of trees at the time of construction of National Highways being followed are (i) In case of 'forest area', permission of cutting of trees is obtained under the provision of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Forest Conservation Rules 2003; (ii) In case of Wildlife area, permission is taken from the Hon'ble Supreme Court; and (iii) In case of areas other than forest, permission to cut trees is taken under local laws of the State Government.

(b) to (d) The assessment of deforestation cost is beyond the scope of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Under the MoEF Acts, Rules and Guidelines, the demand for compensatory afforestation is made by the Forest Department to compensate for the loss of trees. While granting the clearance NHAI is depositing the requisite amount with the Forest Departments for undertaking the compensatory afforestation.

Since the amount of compensatory afforestation is deposited with the forest department as per the statutory requirement, the responsibility of its utilization lies with the forest department. The information on utilization of funds is not maintained in NHAI. However, the details of fund released State-wise so far to the forest divisions towards tree cutting and compensatory afforestation is enclosed as Annex.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.