

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1610
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
THREAT TO BIODIVERSITY
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) whether Dhamra port being built in Orissa poses a threat to the biodiversity of Bhitarkanika National Park and Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary;
- (b) if so, whether Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification is being violated during the construction work of the ports;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) There are no reports received from the State Government indicating any adverse effect on biodiversity of the area.
- (b), (c) & (d) The Environmental clearance to the port was granted by the Ministry of Surface Transport in January 2000. The State Government has informed that the project authorities have engaged the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and the Regional Research Laboratory to assist them in various aspects of environmental management so that the construction and operation of the port does not have adverse impact on the ecology of the area. Eastern Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at Bhubneshwar has reported that environmental clearance conditions are at various stages of compliance.