

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2936
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
PROVISION OF ROADS AND REST-HOUSES
Roy Shri Arjun

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to provide roads and rest-houses in the reserved forest areas of the country to attract foreign tourists and use the revenue earned therefrom for forest development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) No Sir. No such proposal is under consideration of the Ministry. There is a felt need to enhance the extent of forest areas, including the reserved forests, in the country. Further, there is also need to protect the forests by reducing biotic pressure on them. Providing roads and rest-houses in the reserved forest areas of the country may lead to unlimited and uncontrolled biotic pressure which may eventually cause degradation of the forests.