

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:631  
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009  
FELLING OF TREES FOR WIDENING OF ROADS ETC  
Dubey Shri Nishikant

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that several trees on roadside are being felled for widening of roads and for other purposes;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has issued any guidelines/norms in this regard;
- (d) if so, whether these guidelines are being followed by the concerned agencies in letter and spirit; and
- (e) if not, the details of the action taken by the Government against the erring agencies?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. Trees growing along the roads are sometimes felled, as per the necessity, at the time of widening of roads. During the last three years including the current year, 344 proposals involving diversion of 3977.37 ha of forest land for widening of roads have been granted in-principle/final approvals pertaining to different States/Union Territories under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State-wise details are enclosed at annexure. The Central Government from time to time issues guidelines/directions to the State/Union Territory Governments to avoid/curtail felling of trees while widening of roads. At the time of granting approvals, the Central Government stipulates conditions relating to compensatory afforestation and planting of at least two trees for every tree cut and the final approval is granted after fulfillment of those conditions.