

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1259

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011

DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND

Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram;Pathak Shri Harin;Patil Shri C. R.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received a proposal for diversion of forest land in Kutch Desert Wild Life Sanctuary for construction of road from Kunaria to Mauvana in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its importance from national strategy and security point of view; and
- (c) the action/steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for diversion of 79.474 ha of forest land in Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary for construction of Gaduli to Hajipur-Odma-Khavda-Kunaria-Dholavira- Maovana-Gadakbet-Santalpur Road (S.H. Road). The proposal involves development of border roads to meet security needs of the Border Security Forces (BSF). Since the proposal involves diversion of land from Wildlife Sanctuary, it was placed for consideration of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 25th April 2011 wherein it was decided to carry out a site inspection before taking a view in the matter. No final decision has been taken on the proposal so far.