

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2776

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011

DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai; Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) whether the final decision for diversion of forest land in Kutch district wildlife sanctuary for construction of road from Kunaria to Mauvana in Gujarat has been taken;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had 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. The site inspection report has since been received in the Ministry for consideration of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife. No specific time frame can be indicated for the final decision.