

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4327
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2011
FOREST CLEARANCE
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has held any meeting in Andaman and Nicobar Island with the Member of Parliament and Hon`ble Lt. Governor for getting forest clearance and construction of all rural roads;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the action required to be taken by APWD has been delayed; and
- (d) if so, the time by which the pending work will be completed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

- (a): No specific meeting was held regarding forest clearance and construction of all rural roads. However, in a review Meeting taken by Hon'ble Lt. Governor, the same was discussed.
 - (b): During the above meeting Hon'ble governor directed Andaman Public Works Department (APWD) to look into the request of Hon'ble Member of Parliament and initiate suitable action.
 - (c): Subject of "rural roads" has been devolved to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Excepting the roads where PRI has initiated pre-construction activities, APWD, in consultation with Forest Department has initiated action to take up Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study for obtaining Forest Clearance for the works.
 - (d): EIA and forest clearance for 11 works are expected to be obtained by six months and works can be commenced by October/November, 2012. Regarding 4 works, the EIA and forest clearance is likely to be completed within 8 months and work can commence by April, 2013.
- Regarding remaining works, PRIs have been requested to commence the same by next financial year.