

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4852
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
SAFETY OF WILDLIFE
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether the concerns being raised by Wildlife experts regarding safety of wildlife being compromised by construction of National Highways in protected areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure safety of wildlife and also completion of the project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)& (b) Yes, Sir. In the 24th Meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife held on 13th December 2011, some of the members had pointed out that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was not complying in letter and spirit with the conditions stipulated in statutory clearances and also that basic safeguards required in the areas which are ecologically sensitive and where specific protection measures have been suggested, are also not adhered to.

(c)& (d) Yes, Sir. For a considered view of impact of any such developmental projects in Protected Areas and adjoining areas, prior clearance of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife is mandatory. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has requested the implementing agencies for ensuring compliance of conditions laid down while granting clearances for road projects. In addition, the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, has brought out guidelines titled 'Roads, Sensitive Habitats and Wildlife' for ensuring safety of wildlife while constructing roads.