

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:638

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012

DIVERSION OF LAND IN SANCTUARY

Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram;Veljibhai Jat Poonamben

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

(a) whether the Government has received a proposal for land diversion in Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary for construction of strategically important road from Gaduli-Santalpur in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the necessary clearances have been obtained from the National Board for Wildlife in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c) & (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 was considered by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its 25th Meeting held on 13th June 2012. On hearing the views of the inspection team and the Border Security Force (BSF), the Standing Committee decided that a detailed presentation be made by the BSF on this agenda in the next meeting of the Standing Committee to enable the Committee to take a final view in the matter.