

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3683
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
CHECK ON DESTRUCTION OF BIOSPHERE RESERVE
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that the Alaknanda-Badrinath Hydro Electric Project has destroyed part of buffer of Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve which comprises two core zones i.e. the Nanda Devi National Park and the Valley of Flowers National Park;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent severe fragmentation and de-gradation of important wildlife habitats harbor and endangered species and also hamper the movement of wildlife?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Alaknanda Hydroelectric Power project of 300 megawatt capacity was appraised by the Expert Appraisal Committee meeting for River Valley & Hydroelectric projects held on 17.1.2008. As per the reports of environment impact assessment (EIA) and environmental management plan (EMP) and their appraisal, the project is located within the buffer zone of Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve near its north-western boundary. The Ministry has awarded environmental clearance to this project in March, 2008 as per the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 & 2006, subject to strict compliance of specific and general conditions.

To mitigate impact of the project on wildlife and their habitat, the Central Government while according approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of the 60.513 hectares of forest land for construction of this Project, stipulated inter alia the condition that the State Government shall constitute a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Wildlife Warden to monitor construction of project to avoid disturbance, if any, to wildlife from the project. Representative of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, may also be included in the Committee as its member. The Committee may suggest appropriate measures to ameliorate impacts of the project.