

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2250  
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013  
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND  
Pathak Shri Harin

**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-Santaipur in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in view of the strategic and security importance of this area?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c) The proposal for diversion of 79.474 ha of forest land in Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary for construction of Gaduli-Hajipur-Odma-Khavda-Kunriya- Dholavira-Maovana-Gadakbet-Santalpur road has been received in the Ministry and it was discussed in the last meeting of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life (N BWL) held on 12th December 2012. The Committee considered the site inspection report submitted by Dr. M.K. Ranjitsing. The Committee expressed concerns for two stretches of road i.e. from Kuneria-Dholavira and Maovana-Gadakbet-Santalpur as one of the proposed areas is the only breeding ground for Flamingo in Asia, and the movement of traffic would have a negative impact on this important habitat. The Committee also heard the representatives from the Border Security Force. The Committee recommended resubmission of the proposal with revised alignment as recommended in the Site inspection report. The issue was also discussed during a meeting held on 14.1.2013, where in it was agreed that BSF will examine both the alternatives in the light of the recommendation of the Site Inspection team and will provide the response along with the alternative, which is compliant to the recommendations for the consideration of the Standing Committee of the NBWL.