

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4498
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
EFFECT ON ENVIRONMENT
Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) whether the widening of the National Highways across the country has affected the environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these National Highways may not divide the wild life sanctuaries?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 as amended in 2009, widening of National Highways of more than 30 km. length with additional 20 meters Right of Way require prior environmental clearance. Based upon the EIA reports submitted by the project proponents, individual projects are appraised by the Expert Appraisal Committee, and environmental safeguards and mitigation measures are stipulated as conditions while granting Environmental Clearance to the highway widening projects so as to minimize the impact on environment.

(c) As per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, prior recommendation of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is necessary before taking up any proposal of National Highways passing through protected areas, including wildlife sanctuaries. The Standing Committee of NBWL considers proposals on their merits and stipulates mitigation measures while recommending any such proposal(s).