

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2574
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
NATIONAL BOARD FOR WILDLIFE
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Patil Shri C. R. ;Veljibhai Jat Poonamben

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for diversion of forest land in Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary for construction of Gaduli-Santalpur road;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the permission has been granted by the National Board for Wildlife;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be granted permission?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) 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 new roads passing through Flamingo nesting area, ecologically important mangrove areas, to meet 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.

(c) to (e) The Committee 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, 26th meeting held on 31st October 2012 and 27th meeting held on 12th December 2012 and in its 28th meeting held on 20th March 2013 decided that the proposal in its present form can not be accepted, as it was having a serious impact on wildlife of the region, and the Shravan Kavadia mangrove area, which is unique being far away from the coast, would be affected.