

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1382
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
WIDENING OF NH-7 IN MP AND MAHARASHTRA
Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any representation for widening/four laning of NH-7 passing through the Pench Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to undertake an alternative alignment of the North-South Corridor so as to protect the forest reserve; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

- (a) Yes, Sir. A number of objections have been received from wild life experts, NGOs and representatives of people to the alignment proposed by NHAI with a request to realign the NH-7 passing through the Pench Tiger Reserves to save the bifurcation of the tiger habitat.
- (b) NHAI has taken these concerns into consideration and proposed a number of animal passes of adequate width and height at suitable locations as per the advice of the Forest Department and referred the proposal for the consideration of Ministry of Environment and Forests. The matter has subsequently been referred to the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), who after a series of hearings, has referred the matter for the consideration of Supreme Court.
- (c)&(d) A final decision on following the existing alignment or an alternative alignment can be taken only after the decision of the Supreme Court.