

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3322
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015
PENDING PROPOSALS FOR ROAD PROJECTS
Nishank Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

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

- (a) the details of the proposals for road projects which are pending with the Government for clearance during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) the details of such projects on which stay order had been issued by the Supreme Court;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism for sanctioning the projects in border and inaccessible forest areas on priority and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of the pending projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE. (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) 18 road proposals (14 for Forest Clearance and 4 for Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life Clearance are under consideration for clearance in the Ministry . Hon'ble Supreme Court has not stayed any such proposals.

The Ministry has taken measures to facilitate creation of requisite road network along the Border areas which include the following:

i. An amendment to EIA Notification 2006 dated 03.02.2015 was made so as to exempt all highway projects in border States from scoping requirement and exempt all linear projects in border States from the requirement of public hearing subject to suitable conditions prescribed by the Ministry.

ii. Decided to accord general approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for construction and widening of two lane roads by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) and other road construction agencies entrusted with the job by the Ministry of Defence, in the area falling within 100 kilometers aerial distance from the LAC and widening of roads (by the BRO and other road construction agencies) which are identified by the Ministry of Defence as link roads, between Border roads in the area within 100 kilometer aerial distance from the LAC and National Highways/State Highways/Other State Roads. This general approval has been extended for diversion of forest land, if any, required for construction of similar roads for Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP) within 100 kilometer aerial distance from the LAC, for which funds are provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Similarly, with a view to expedite creation of strategic infrastructure along the international Border, the Ministry decided to accord general approval under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for creation of border security related infrastructure such as, Border Roads, Fencing, Border Outposts, Floodlights, Surveillance Infrastructure, and Power Infrastructure, within five kilometres aerial distance from the International Border by paramilitary organizations of the Ministry of Home Affairs, such as Border Security Force (BSF) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) from funds provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

iii. With a view to expedite the environment/forest/wildlife clearance to border roads projects, the Ministry has constituted a Working Group headed by the Secretary, MoEF&CC with representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Border Roads Organization, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Railways, etc. Working Group reviews the status of clearance of proposals pertaining to the border roads at frequent intervals.