

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6226  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015  
ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION  
Usendi Shri Vikram

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

- (a) whether the widening of national highways has resulted in environmental degradation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these national highways do not result in division of any wildlife sanctuary?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry consider the projects for grant of Environment Clearance as per provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended from time to time. The Notification inter-alia provides for detailed examination of all environmental factors associated with proposed activity including possible environmental degradation due to construction of highways by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) constituted for this purpose under the EIA Notification, 2006. The EAC stipulates sector and locations specific conditions to avoid any environmental consequence.

(c) As per decision of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), the Ministry constituted a Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh, Member, NBWL with a view to frame a comprehensive guideline for construction/repair roads passing through Protected Areas (PAs) in the Country; and design best practices for such roads passing through PAs so as to have better wildlife conservation. The recommendations of the Sub-Committee inter-alia include:

- i. New roads shall not be proposed in the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
- ii. The case of resurfacing, strengthening of existing highways not involving widening within PAs will be possible without reference to the Standing Committee of NBWL.
- iii. Cases of widening of existing roads if unavoidable due to reasons of purpose and alignment could be placed before Standing Committee of NBWL, which shall consider such cases keeping in view the feasibility of mitigation measures irrespective of costs.

The principles provided in the report of the sub-committee have been adopted as generic principle.