

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
DIVERSION OF LAND IN KUTCH DESERT
Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai

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

- (a) whether the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife has denied sanction for the proposal to divert land in Kutch Desert Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary, Gujarat for construction of road from Gaduli-Santalpur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review the said decision in view of the strategic and security importance of the said road; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said proposal is likely to be accorded clearance?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife considered the site inspection report for the 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 Santalpur Road, in its 25th meeting held on 13th June 2012, 26th meeting held on 31st October 2012, 27th meeting held on 12th December 2012 and 28th meeting held on 20th March 2013. After deliberating in detail, the committee 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 it would affect the Shravan Kavadia mangrove area, which is unique, being far away from the coast.

The Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 20th March 2013 had also decided that a revised proposal, duly incorporating the suggestions made by the members of Standing Committee of NBWL, be submitted for its consideration. The revised proposal in this regard has not been received from the State Government. As the State Government needs to submit a revised proposal, no specific time limit for decision on the project can be indicated.