

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2985  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014  
DIVERSION OF LAND IN KUTCH  
Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from State Government of Gujarat for diversion of Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary (KDWS) land for construction of Kutch Branch Canal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and;
- (c) the present status of the proposal?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat seeking recommendation of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), for diversion of 134.0364 ha of forest land from Kutch Desert Sanctuary for construction of Kutch Branch Canal in favour of Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd., Gujarat. The Sardar Sarovar (Narmada) Project is a multipurpose river valley project on the west flowing River Narmada in Gujarat State located along the west coast of India. The project is expected to provide irrigation benefits to a gross area of about 3.43 million hectare and generate a maximum of 1450 MW ie. about 959 MW hydro powers at 60 percent load factor.

As per the provisions of Section 29 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, such proposals involving diversion of land from a Sanctuary require recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife. Besides, in pursuance to orders of Supreme Court dated 13.11.2000 and 09.05.2002 in Writ petition (Civil) No. 337/1995, recommendation of Standing Committee of NBWL and final approval of Supreme Court are also necessary for such cases.

(c) The Standing Committee of NBWL had considered proposal and decided for carrying out a site inspection and also that the State Government of Gujarat would place the proposal before the State Board for Wildlife and convey the recommendation to the Standing Committee. The site inspection report along with recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife, Gujarat have been referred to the Standing Committee of NBWL. However, no final decision on the proposal has been taken by the Standing Committee of NBWL.