

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3730
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014
SHOOLPANESHWAR SANCTUARY
Patil Shri Chandrakant Raghunath

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

(a) whether the area of Shoolpaneshwar sanctuary, earlier known as Dhumkhal Sloth Bear Sanctuary, was increased to 607.7 sq. km. from 158.8 sq. km. as a part of environment safeguard measures and if the details thereof; and

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for declaring eco sensitive zone for Shoolpaneshwar sanctuary and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto and the time by which the notification in this regard is likely to be issued?

Answer

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

(a) As per the information available with the Ministry, an area of 150.87 sq.kms was declared as Dumkhal sloth bear Sanctuary in 1982 and vide two further successive notifications, the area of the Sanctuary was increased to 607.708 sq.kms. In 1987, the sanctuary was renamed as Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary.

(b) The State Government of Gujarat had submitted a proposal for declaring eco sensitive zone for Shoolpaneshwar sanctuary during August 2014. However the State Government vide their letter dated 9th September 2014 has requested to treat the said proposal as cancelled.