

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1903
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

Diversion of Wildlife Habitat Land for Projects

1903. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:
SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:
SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT:
SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:
SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:
DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) Whether the Government/National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) has approved the diversion of large quantum of land of wildlife habitat for developmental projects/activities;
- (b) if so, the details of such proposals considered and approved including the land diverted from eco-sensitive zones, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks during each of the last two years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) Whether the Government has conducted any study or assessed the impact of such projects on the movement of wild animals and its habitat, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether most of the diversion of habitat was for linear projects such as roads, railways, electricity transmission lines and clearance to such projects was given when the site visits were restricted during the year 2020;
- (e) if so, whether the Government has asked NBWL to suggest alternate route for these projects; and
- (f) If so, whether the guidelines governing such diversion of land from conservation areas were followed in this regard and if so, the details and if not, the measures taken for safety of wild animals?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) and (b) Proposals for developmental activities within National Parks, Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, Tiger Corridors and those activities requiring environmental clearance inside Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) around National Parks and Sanctuaries are forwarded by State Governments for consideration by the

Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL). The proposals are forwarded after thorough scrutiny by the State Government and the State Board for Wild Life headed by the respective Chief Ministers.

Incomplete proposals are returned to State Governments by the Ministry. The SCNBWL, which also includes eminent ecologists, conservationists and environmentalists, takes informed decisions on the proposals placed for its consideration. The number of project proposals considered and recommended by the SCNBWL in both forest and non-forest areas falling in national parks, sanctuaries, eco-sensitive zones, tiger reserves and tiger corridors during the last two years State/UT Wise is as given below:

S.No.	State/UT	2019	2020
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	2	2
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4	Bihar	1	0
5	Goa	2	2
6	Gujarat	13	2
7	Jammu & Kashmir	2	2
8	Jharkhand	1	1
9	Karnataka	3	2
10	Kerala	1	2
11	Madhya Pradesh	9	2
12	Maharashtra	26	0
13	Mizoram	0	2
14	Punjab	1	0
15	Rajasthan	10	12
16	Tamil Nadu	27	1
17	Telangana	1	4
18	Tripura	10	0
19	Uttarakhand	15	6
20	Uttar Pradesh	2	5

- (c) While recommending the proposals, the SCNBWL also imposes a condition that the annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions for recommended proposals should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India. Further, SCNBWL has decided in the 59th meeting held on 5th October, 2020 that the Integrated Regional Offices (IRO) of the Ministry shall carry out the monitoring of the conditions imposed by the SCNBWL. Accordingly, the IROs have been requested to carry out the monitoring of the conditions imposed by the SCNBWL.
- (d) During the year 2020, the SCNBWL held 3 meetings on 7th April, 2020, 3rd July, 2020 and 5th October, 2020, considered and recommended the project proposals for railways, roads, transmission lines, mining, defence, irrigation, development of judicial infrastructure, survey and geotechnical investigation, construction of bridge, Submarine Cable System etc which were forwarded

for consideration of the SCNBWL had site inspections carried by the State Government officials. During this period, the SCNBWL also recommended policy initiatives such as conservation of Gangetic Dolphin, Action Plan on Vulture Conservation etc.

- (e) and (f) The Project Proposals are forwarded by the State Government after examining the alternatives and with justification. The SCNBWL also solicits advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun wherever required and takes informed decisions.
