

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received a 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 Hajipur-Odma-Khavda-Kunaria-Dholavira-Maovana-Gadakbet-Santalpur Road (S.H. Road). The proposal involves development of border roads to meet security needs of the Border Security Forces (BSF). Since the proposal involves diversion of land from Wildlife Sanctuary, it was placed for consideration of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 25th April, 2011 wherein it was decided to carry out a site inspection before taking a view in the matter. No final decision has been taken on the proposal so far.

Destruction of elephants' habitat in Orissa

1569. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware about destruction of traditional habitats and a corridor used by elephants due to construction of Rengali Left Bank Canal irrigation project in Orissa; and
- (b) the details of the forest area or land acquired for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rengali Left Bank Canal is being constructed in a forest area traditionally used by elephants. The construction of the canal requires 2107 hectares of forest land. The Ministry of Environment and Forests had accorded Stage-I clearance on 21.11.1996 for 2107 hectares of forest land in Dhenkanal Athagarh, Angul and Keonjhar districts. However, Stage-II clearance and approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 had been accorded on 14.05.2003 for diversion of 812 hectares of forest land in Dhenkanal and Angul districts only.

Illegal cutting of trees in the country

†1570. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that illegal cutting of trees is rampant in the country;
- (b) whether this is causing severe risk to the environment of the country;
- (c) if so, the number of people arrested for this offence, State-wise; and
- (d) the action taken against the number of offenders in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) It is not a fact that illegal cutting of trees is rampant in the country causing severe risks to the environment of the country. However, it is relevant to mention that large rural population-and people living in the vicinity of forests are dependent on forests for sustenance. Also there is huge demand for timber/small timber from forests which sometimes leads to illegal felling of trees. The Forest Departments in all State Governments take necessary measures for protection of forests and prevention of illegal cutting of trees. The State Governments take action against the guilty persons as per law.

Proposals of annual workplans under NPV by State level CAMPA

†1571. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the States whose State-level Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) organising committee has submitted approved annual workplans under Net Present Value (NPV) to the Central Government;
- (b) the details of proposals received along with the amount involved therein from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and the details released; and
- (c) the reasons therefor if no amount has been released and by when the same would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) A list of States/UTs from whom Annual Plans of Operation for the year 2011-12 for release of CAMPA funds have been received is given in Statement (See below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.