

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.