

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.529
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021

National Board for Wildlife

529 SHRI KUMAR KETKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Prime Minister is the chairman of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL);
- (b) whether there has been an increase in wildlife clearances in the last five years, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the land area important for wildlife that has been diverted by the NBWL and its standing committee for linear and area based infrastructure projects like roads/hydro power in the last five years and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the NBWL to prioritise conservation of wildlife and forests, measures taken to contain illegal poaching and wildlife trade?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) The National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) is chaired by the Prime Minister.
- (b) & (c) The numbers of the projects considered and recommended by the Standing Committee of the National board for Wild Life (SCNBWL) during last five years are as follows:

S. No.	Year wise	No. of recommended projects
1	2016-17	126
2	2017-18	220
3	2018-19	153
4	2019-20	71
5	2020-21	81

The SCNBWL which comprises of both official and expert members, considers and takes informed decisions on proposals received in the Ministry based on the

recommendations of Chief Wild Life Warden, State Board for Wild Life and State Government.

- (d) Government has been considering matters pertaining to conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitats. Important matters considered include the following:
- i. Conservation of Vultures through ban on diclofenac
 - ii. Creation of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries
 - iii. Constitution of Tiger Task Force for review and management of Tiger Reserves
 - iv. Setting up of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
 - v. Developing a framework for involving the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in conservation of wildlife and international cooperation.
 - vi. Need for curbing illegal trade in wildlife
 - vii. Training of veterinary doctors required for treatment of wildlife
 - viii. Need for enhancing funds under Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for taking up species recovery programmes
 - ix. Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is provided in the on-going Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on 22 identified critically endangered species including Humpback whale, Snow leopard, Hangul, Sangai deer, Marine turtle, Bustards, Red Panda, Nicobar Megapode, Jerdon's Courser, Caracal and vultures. Financial assistance is provided to States/UT Governments for recovery programme of the critically endangered species of birds and animals.
 - x. Implementation of guidelines named, '*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wild Life*',
 - xi. Action Plan for Vulture Conservation,
 - xii. National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031),
 - xiii. Conservation of Gangetic River Dolphin,
 - xiv. Advisory on Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation,
 - xv. Monitoring implementation of terms and conditions of recommendation of SCNBWL,
 - xvi. Directions to States/UTs to comply with Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020,
 - xvii. Advisories to States/UTs for expansion of protected area network.
