

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
FELLING OF TREES DUE TO WIDENING OF NH .

3423

Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi

Will the Minister of COALCOALENVIROMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale tree felling for widening of NH-7 from Seoni to Nagpur has resulted in cutting the wildlife corridor between Pench and Kanha and Panch and Nagzira-Navgaon;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on the opposition to this proposal by the National Tiger Conservation Authority; and

(c) whether the approval of his Ministry was obtained by the National Highways Authority for felling these trees on this massive scale?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) Felling of trees on the NH-7, close to the Pench Tiger Reserve was observed by the team of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) during their site inspection. Accordingly, an advisory has been issued to the concerned collector for stopping of felling of trees. However, the proposal for diverting forest land for construction and widening of NH-7 on the periphery of Pench Mowgli Sanctuary of Pench Tiger Reserve, Seoni, Madhya Pradesh is under consideration of the Supreme Court of India on the recommendations of Central Empowered Committee, wherein the Central Empowered Committee has recommended that alternative alignment may be used for widening of the NH-7, taking into account the impact of widening of the NH-7 on Pench Tiger Reserve. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has not given any approval for felling of trees along the NH-7 in this stretch.