

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 47
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2021

Clearance in eco-sensitive areas

47. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO:

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

- (a) the rejection rate for clearances in eco-sensitive areas, from 2014 till date, year-wise;
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware of the minimal rejection rate of 1.1 per cent for clearances in eco-sensitive areas during the last four years, and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the opinion of the Ministry on the mandate of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) to safe guard and conserve wildlife and habitat protection?

ANSWER

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

- (a) In pursuance of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 04.12.2006 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 460 of 2004, developmental projects falling within eco-sensitive zones (ESZ) around national parks and sanctuaries are considered by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL) which require Environmental Clearance. The rate of rejection of proposals for developmental activities falling within ESZ around National Parks and Sanctuaries considered by the SCNBWL is as given below:

S.No	Year	Rate of rejection (in percentage)
1	2014	0
2	2015	1.47
3	2016	2.33
4	2017	1.90
5	2018	0
6	2019	2.22
7	2020	0
8	2021	0

- (b) Proposals for developmental activities requiring environmental clearance inside Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) around National Parks and Sanctuaries are forwarded for consideration by SCNBWL after thorough scrutiny and mitigative measures by State Government and State Board for Wild Life headed by the respective Chief Ministers. Incomplete proposals are

returned to State Governments by the Ministry. The SCNBWL also comprising of expert members takes informed decisions on the proposals placed for their consideration.

Further, in pursuance of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 05.10.2015 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995, all the recommendations of the SCNBWL are forwarded to the Central Empowered Committee (appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court). In the last four years, the SCNBWL has recommended 98.6 percent proposals for developmental activities falling within ESZ around National Parks and Sanctuaries.

- (c) The National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) is constituted as per the Section 5A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The mandate of the NBWL is to promote the conservation and development of wild life and forests. As per the Wild Life (Protection), Act, 1972, the SCNBWL is constituted to promote the conservation and development of wild life and forests, to advise the Central Government and the State Governments regarding wild life conservation, to make recommendations regarding management of National Parks, Sanctuaries etc.

During the last four years, the SCNBWL has also recommended the following for the betterment of wildlife and its habitat:

- i. Inclusion of critically endangered species for Recovery Programme under Development of Wild Life Habitats for conservation of species such as Northern River Terrapin, Clouded Leopard, Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, Red Panda, Caracal,
- ii. Implementation of guidelines named, '*Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wild Life*',
- iii. Action Plan for Vulture Conservation,
- iv. National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031),
- v. Conservation of Gangetic River Dolphin,
- vi. Advisory on Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation,
- vii. Monitoring implementation of terms and conditions of recommendation of SCNBWL,
- viii. Directions to States/UTs to comply with Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020,
- ix. Advisories to States/UTs for expansion of protected area network.
