

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1173
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

Special corridor for wildlife in reserved and general forest area

1173. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

- (a) whether there is a provision for making special corridor for wildlife in road projects to be built in reserved forest area and general forest area;
- (b) if so, the number of such road projects in the country till now where under these provisions a separate corridor has been built for wildlife ;
- (c) whether a separate corridor has been built for the movement of wildlife in any project in Uttar Pradesh, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the efforts being made to save wildlife from road accidents in reserved areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a)to(d) A guidance document namely, 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wild Life' has been released by the Ministry which prescribes measures, both structural and non-structural to be adopted while designing linear infrastructure projects through wildlife habitats to save wildlife from road accidents. The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL) constituted as per the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 in the 47th meeting held on 25th January, 2018 recommended that linear infrastructure proposals would be submitted along with an animal passage plan, prepared on the basis of these guidelines, in consultation with the State Chief Wild Life Warden.

The Ministry has made it mandatory for all project proposals involving linear infrastructure planned through wildlife habitats, to enclose an animal passage plan prepared in accordance with these guidelines, for seeking recommendations/ approvals of the SCNBWL. The animal passage plan may include construction of overpasses and underpasses in the form of bridges, culverts, hume pipes, canopy bridges, installation of signboards, speed breakers etc. as per landscape and the species found in the area where the project is located.

Further, under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, stage II approvals have been given for 4,965 road projects within forest areas from 1.1.2018 to 01.12.2024.

A proposal for improvement, upgradation and construction of Ganeshpur-Dehradun road (NH72A) from (Km 0.0 to Km 16.160) to 4 lane configuration in the state of Uttar Pradesh was recommended by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life in its 60th meeting held on 5th January, 2021. The project involves construction of about 12 km elevated road along with animal underpasses for free movement of wildlife in this area as recommended by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.
