

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3735
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

Review of National Board for Wildlife

3735. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the functioning of the National Board for Wildlife(NBWL) in clearing projects near wildlife sanctuaries, if so, the findings thereof;
- (b) steps taken to strengthen NBWL's role and make its decisions binding;
- (c) whether the impact of NBWL approved projects on eco-sensitive zones and endangered species has been assessed, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken to enhance transparency, accountability, and community participation in wildlife conservation?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) The National Board for Wild Life (NBWL) is a statutory body constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and is chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Currently the NBWL has 47 members which includes Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Secretaries of various ministries, eminent conservationists, ecologists and environmentalists, representatives of non-governmental organizations, Directors of various institutes etc.

A Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life has been constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, exercising the powers and functions of the NBWL delegated to it by the NBWL. The Standing Committee is chaired by Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The proposals for developmental activities within national parks, sanctuaries, tiger reserves, tiger corridors and those activities requiring environmental clearance inside Eco-sensitive Zones around national parks and sanctuaries are considered by the SCNBWL.

The proposals are forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for placing before the Standing Committee after thorough scrutiny by the State/Union Territory Governments/Administrators and the State Board for Wild Life. Incomplete proposals are returned to the

States/Union Territories. The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life, which also includes eminent ecologists, conservationists and environmentalists, takes informed decisions on the proposals placed for its consideration with certain mitigation measures.

The proposals requiring wildlife clearances are processed through a single window portal “PARIVESH (Pro Active and Responsive Facilitation by Interactive and Virtuous Environmental Single window Hub)” to ensure transparency and accountability. Project proposals on PARIVESH are examined comprehensively using Geographical Information System (GIS) based Decision Support System.

The minutes of the meetings of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life are available in the PARIVESH portal for public viewing.
