GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1494**
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

**Impact of land diversion near Kaziranga National Park**

1494. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that the proposed highway near Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site, involves diversion of nearly 20 hectares of forest land from the core area and around 364 hectares from its Eco-Sensitive Zone;
(b) the likely impact of such diversion on wildlife movement between Kaziranga and the Karbi Anglong hills and on the park's ecological balance;
(c) whether the National Board for Wildlife, while granting clearance in February 2024, prescribed safeguards; and
(d) the steps taken or proposed by Government, including monitoring and enforcement mechanisms?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) The highway proposal near Kaziranga National Park has been considered by the Ministry. The proposals for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes received from the State Governments are examined on their merits, including assessment of their direct and indirect impacts on forests and wildlife. Infrastructure projects proposed in areas of high conservation value or rich biodiversity are examined meticulously.

In cases where diversion of forest land is unavoidable and duly justified, such proposals are considered by the Central Government, subject to the implementation of adequate mitigation measures, including the preparation of site-specific Wildlife Management Plans and the provision of wildlife underpasses/overpasses, as applicable.

The Ministry has also developed a guidance document through the Wildlife Institute of India, "Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife", which prescribes standard mitigation measures for linear infrastructure projects to minimize adverse impacts on wildlife and their habitats.

The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SCNBWL) recommended the highway proposal near Kaziranga National Park in its 78th meeting held on 22nd February 2024 with mitigation measures envisaged to facilitate free movement of wildlife and to ensure their safety along with site specific Wildlife Management Plans, which will be monitored by the Chief Wildlife Warden of Assam.

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