

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 533
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

Protection of Sanjay Gandhi National Park and surrounding forest areas

533. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of recent human chain protest in Thane, wherein a large number of citizens, environmental groups and tribal communities demanded protection of forests surrounding the Sanjay Gandhi National Park;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the concerns raised regarding proposed infrastructure and development projects in the area;
- (c) whether any assessment has been conducted on the likely impact of such projects on forest cover, biodiversity, wildlife corridors and tribal habitats; and
- (d) the measures taken or proposed to balance infrastructure development with ecological conservation and protection of forest-dependent communities?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Infrastructure and development projects are considered on a case-to-case basis in accordance with provisions of a Zonal Master Plan across the country. In so far as the Sanjay Gandhi National Park is concerned, the Zonal Master Plan was notified by the State of Maharashtra on March 20, 2026 on advice of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife, which takes into account ecological considerations, likely environmental impacts, and the prescribed compensatory and mitigation regimes.

Further, protection of forests in and around the Sanjay Gandhi National Park are undertaken in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and the applicable regulatory measures related to Eco-sensitive Zone, wherever applicable.
