

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1689
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

Construction of High Rise Buildings near National Park/Sanctuary

1689. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:

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

- (a) whether a large number of high rise buildings (4/5 storeys) have been constructed near the National Park and Sanctuary in Batabari area of Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a person/organization can build such a buildings near National Parks/Sanctuary and if so, the details of minimum distance within which such buildings can be constructed;
- (c) the details of approving Authority to allow for the construction of such buildings; and
- (d) whether the Government is planning to reintroduce tigers in Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) Proposals for developmental activities within National Parks, Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, Tiger Corridors and those activities requiring environmental clearance inside Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) around National Parks and Sanctuaries are forwarded by State Governments for consideration by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL). The proposals are forwarded after thorough scrutiny by the State Government and the State Board for Wild Life headed by the respective Chief Ministers. The SCNBWL, which also includes eminent ecologists, conservationists and environmentalists, takes informed decisions on the proposals placed for its consideration.

The State / Union Territory (UT) Governments are mandated with management of forest and wildlife in the country.

The Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Chapramari Sanctuary has been notified on 07.06.2019 and it extends upto a distance of two kilometers around the Chapramari Sanctuary. As per the ESZ notification, no new commercial hotels and resorts shall be permitted within one kilometre of

the boundary of the protected area or upto the extent of Eco-sensitive Zone, whichever is nearer, except for small temporary structures for eco-tourism activities. Beyond one kilometre from the boundary of the protected area or upto the extent of Eco-sensitive Zone whichever is nearer, all new tourist activities or expansion of existing activities shall be in conformity with the Tourism Master Plan and guidelines as applicable.

Further, as per the ESZ notification of Chapramari sanctuary, no new commercial construction of any kind shall be permitted within one kilometre from the boundary of the protected area or upto extent of the Eco-sensitive Zone, whichever is nearer. Local people shall be permitted to undertake construction in their land for their use as per building byelaws to meet the residential needs of the local residents. The construction activity related to small scale industries not causing pollution shall be regulated and kept at the minimum, with the prior permission from the competent authority as per applicable rules and regulations, if any. Beyond one kilometre it is regulated as per the Zonal Master Plan.

- (d) Initiatives have been taken by the Government to rebuild tiger population in the Buxa Tiger Reserve in association with Wildlife Institute of India and West Bengal Government.
