

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 304
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

Felling of Trees for Construction Projects

304. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance that more than 18,000 trees have been sanctioned to be felled in the Krishnai Forest Area in Goalpara, Assam for the widening of NH-17 to a 4-lane highway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to protect the diverse wildlife and the ecological balance of the region and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any studies regarding the ecological impacts of such construction activities in the region have been conducted prior to the commencement of the project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken or likely to be taken to maintain the forest cover in the region and re-plant as many trees so as to compensate for the number of trees being cut?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e) As per the information provided by the State Government, permissions has been granted for felling of trees including for 15475 numbers of trees under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. The Environment Impact Assessment was done in the matter and following measures related to plantation and wildlife management are also part of the impact mitigations;
- (i) Compensatory Afforestation on an area of 55.294 Ha,
 - (ii) Trees plantation in ration of 1:10 against each tree felled on revenue land,
 - (iii) Translocation of trees wherever possible,
 - (iv) Catchment area treatment plan, Wildlife managemnet plan and Human Elephant conflict mitigation measures at the cost of User Agency.
