

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3208
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2019

Facilities in Forest Areas

3208. SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHTO:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that numerous people face problems of commutation due to absence of essential navigable road in several forest areas of the country despite having other facilities like schools and health centres; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district/ State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) & (b) The Government policy is to provide essential facilities such as roads, school, dispensaries etc. in the remote areas while ensuring adequate safeguards for conservation of natural resources including forests. Several policy decisions have been taken to provide essential navigable roads which can be taken up in the forest areas expeditiously (subject to certain conditions), which are as follows:
- (i) Ministry has accorded general approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 allowing non-forest use of forest land for 15 categories of projects, including construction/widening of roads involving forest area up to 1 ha.
 - (ii) Up-gradation of roads, constructed in forest areas prior to 25th October 1980, from 'Kutchha to Pucca' is permissible without attracting the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - (iii) Black topping and bituminous work of forest roads under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is permitted without attracting the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - (iv) For Left Wing Extremism affected districts, general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of two lane roads public roads, irrespective of the forest area involved has been accorded to the State Governments.
