

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1072
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2020

NOC from Forest Department

1072. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:
SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether construction of several National Highways which pass through forest areas are delayed owing to non-receipt of 'No-Objection Certificate' from forest departments; and
- (b) if so, the directions given by the Government to the forest department to resolve this problem along with details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a)& (b) The construction of National Highways which pass through forest areas requires prior approval of Central Government under Section 2(ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. In such cases, the concerned road construction agency first submits a proposal through the concerned State Government/Union Territory. As and when a completed proposal in all respect is received in Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the same is considered as per the procedure laid down in the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.
For expeditious disposal of various category of project proposals, including for roads, the following special dispensations have been made by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:
 - (i) Power to accord approval in all category of linear projects including roads irrespective of the extent of forest area involved has been delegated to the Regional Empowered Committee of the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry.
 - (ii) In case of requirement of forest land for public utility infrastructures including roads involving forest land (up to 1 ha and felling of maximum 50 numbers of trees), Central Government has granted general approval to State Government/Union Territory to issue approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
 - (iii) 'Working permission' may be granted by the State Government/Union Territory Administration for removal of trees and commencement of work by the user agency after grant of 'In-Principle' approval and payment of compensatory levies.

- (iv) In the Left-Wing Extremism areas identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs, requiring diversion of forest land not located within Protected Areas for construction of two-lane public roads irrespective of area of the forest land involved, Central Government has granted general approval to State Government/Union Territory to issue approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, subject to certain conditions.
