

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*74
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2021

Clearance of Projects by NBWL

* 74. SHRI. MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:

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

- (a) whether the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) conducts post-approval assessment to ascertain the impact of its decisions on conservation and development of wildlife and forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of clearances to various projects granted/issued by NBWL during the COVID-19 lockdown period between March 25, 2020 and May 31, 2020;
- (d) whether NBWL clearance proposals require site inspection and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of projects which were cleared through virtual mode during the said period without mandatory site inspections?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO *74 REGARDING 'CLEARANCE OF PROJECTS BY NBWL' BY SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.07.2021

- (a) and (b) 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. Incomplete proposals are returned to State Governments by the Ministry. The SCNBWL, which also includes eminent ecologists, conservationists and environmentalists, takes informed decisions on the proposals placed for its consideration.

While recommending the proposals, the SCNBWL also imposes a condition that the annual compliance certificate on the stipulated conditions for recommended proposals should be submitted by the project proponent to the State Chief Wild Life Warden and an annual compliance certificate shall be submitted by the State Chief Wild Life Warden to Government of India. Further, SCNBWL has decided in the 59th meeting held on 5th October, 2020 that the Integrated Regional Offices (IRO) of the Ministry shall carry out the monitoring of the conditions imposed by the SCNBWL. Accordingly, the IROs have been requested to carry out the monitoring of the conditions imposed by the SCNBWL.

- (c) During the period between March 25, 2020 and May 31, 2020, SCNBWL held 57th meeting on 7th April, 2020 and recommended 26 projects and deferred decisions on 7 projects.
- (d) Project proposals which are forwarded for consideration of the SCNBWL require site inspection by the State Government officials. Besides, the SCNBWL causes site inspections of project sites wherever it is necessary for making recommendations e.g. in case of proposal for Tikok OCP coal mining project by North-Eastern Coal Field, Coal India Limited in Assam, in case of proposal for upgradation of Laldhang Chillarkhal Road in buffer zone of Rajaji Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand etc.
- (e) In view of reply to part (d), question does not arise
