

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2575
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
GAS CONNECTIONS UNDER ECO DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether villagers in the vicinity of seven national parks have been provided the gas connections at a subsidised rate under the India Eco Development Project
- (b) if so, the details of the connections provided alongwith the subsidy given in each case, State-wise;
- (c) whether the project has proved beneficial for the national parks and bird sanctuaries;
- (d) if so, the details and extent thereof ;
- (e) whether the Ministry has requested to continue the scheme of providing gas connection on subsidised rates to such villagers on a permanent basis; and
- (f) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)&(b) Under the India Ecodevelopment Project six Protected Areas in six States have been provided gas connections. The State-wise details of gas connections along with subsidy provided, are given below:

S. No.	Name of State	Name of Tiger Reserve/ National Park	No. of Gas Connections	Subsidy
1	Gujarat	Gir National Park	10638	75%
2.	Karnataka	Nagarhole National Park	7622	75%
3.	Jharkhand	Palamau Tiger Reserve	1708	75%
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Pench Tiger Reserve	1653	75%
5.	Kerala	Periyar Tiger Reserve	2183	75%
6.	Rajasthan	Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve	10037	75%

(c)&(d) The project was beneficial to Protected Areas since it reduced the firewood resource dependency of local people on such areas, resulting in enhancement of biodiversity conservation.

(e) & (f) Such activities are being fostered in an ongoing manner under ecodevelopment component of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for wildlife conservation.