

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3772

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PARKS

Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector participation in developing Theme Panu at Kanha and Pench has come under criticism from forest and wildlife experts as reported in `The Hindu` dated July 26, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether excessive pressure of tourists in and around these protected areas would seriously threaten ecology and wildlife balance;

(d) if so, the extent thereof; and

(e) the steps the Union Government propose to take for protection of ecology and wildlife there?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Even though a report has appeared in the media on Theme Parks proposed to be developed at Kanha and Pench by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, no such proposal or criticism has been received in this Ministry.

(c),(d) and (e) Regulatory measures exist to limit tourist visitations to the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries within the carrying capacity of the area so that the ecology and wildlife are safeguarded against threats. The Union Government, time and again, has issued normative guidelines for regulated tourism in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, within the ambit of the National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002.