

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3497
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
DEVELOPMENT OF SABARIMALA
Rajendran Shri P.

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

- (a) whether any project proposal for development of forest land at Sabarimala situated in the Periyar Tiger Reserve, Kerala has been received by the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details of the land sought and the decision taken on above proposal as on date;
- (c) whether there is also any proposal submitted by the Competent Authority for clearance of a detailed Road Development Project for Sabarimala; and
- (d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) On the basis of the proposal received from the State Government of Kerala, the Central Government has diverted 12.675 hectares of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Periyar Tiger Reserve for providing facilities to the pilgrims and for development of Sabarimala Temple.

(c)&(d) No proposal has been received by the Central Government for clearance of a detailed Road Development Project for Sabarimala. However, in the past, on the basis of the proposals received from the State Government, the Central Government has diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, 1.922 hectares of forest land for widening of the existing Chalakkayam-Pamba Road and another 6.04 hectares of forest land for construction of Erumeli-Chalakkayam Road (Phase-III) in 1997 and 2002 respectively in Pathanamthitta district for development of Sabarimala Temple.