

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3546
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006
CUTTING OF TREES
Rawat Shri Kamla Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the trees along the national highways have been cut down in order to undertake widening work of various national highways in the country;
- (b) if so, whether it is causing threat to the environment;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to plant shadowy trees beside the national highways;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

a) Yes, Sir.

b) Detailed Environment Impact Assessment is undertaken for all the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) projects. Tree cutting is restricted to the minimum after exploring available alternatives. Necessary permissions and clearances were obtained before tree cutting as per the existing regulation. Adequate mitigation measures have been provided in all the NHDP projects to compensate for the loss of trees.

c) National Highway Authority of India has formulated a tree plantation strategy for undertaking plantation along the highways. It includes the provision of planting shade trees on the sides of the highways. Plantations are being undertaken, mostly through the concerned State Forest Departments, on the stretches where the civil works have been substantially completed.

d) Till now, more than 7.5 lakh avenue trees and more than 8 lakh ornamental shrubs have been planted along the highways in different states.

e) Question does not arise.