

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 221
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022

Reducing minimum width of Eco Sensitive Zone

221. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

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

- (a) whether the recent verdict of the Supreme Court stipulating the minimum width of ESZ on pan India basis will adversely affect dense human habitations in immediate vicinity to the boundaries of protected forests in some States like Kerala;
- (b) if so, whether Government will agree to promulgate a new Act for reducing the minimum width of ESZ mentioned in the recent Supreme Court judgement considering the overwhelming public interest; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (c) The Order dated 03.06.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in IA No. 1000 of 2003 in W.P(C) No. 202 of 1995: T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs Union of India and Others has a bearing on developmental and other activities envisaged around protected areas. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, pursuant to the requests received from several State Governments and other stake holders has filed an application for modification / clarification of the said Order dated 03.06.2022 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The matter is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
