

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1983
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

Eco-sensitive zone around Gir forest

1983 SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL:

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

- (a) whether Government intends to create a Eco-Sensitive Zone around the Gir forest in Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the area in kilometres in which the eco-sensitive zone is to be created and the number of villages to be covered under this zone;
- (c) the reasons for declaring it an Eco-Sensitive Zone; and
- (e) whether Government has received any memorandum from the public in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) The Ministry has issued the draft notification dated 18th September 2024 declaring an integrated Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ) encompasses four Protected Areas viz. Gir National Park, Gir, Mitiyala and Paniya Wildlife Sanctuaries in the State of Gujarat based on the proposal received from the State Government. The proposed Eco-sensitive Zone extends from 2.78 km to 9.50 km covering an area of 2,061.77 sq. km (2,06,177 ha), which include 196 villages and 17 riverine corridors.

The very purpose of declaring the Eco-sensitive Zone is to create some kind of 'Shock Absorber' for the specialized ecosystems, such as Protected Areas (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries), to act as transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection. The purpose of declaring the ESZ around Gir Protected Area is to facilitate in the movement of Asiatic lions and other wildlife found in the landscape. Comments on draft notification have been received by this Ministry from the stakeholders. The draft notification is finalized after the comments of the stakeholders have been analyzed and examined by the State Government and its response has been received.
