

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1991**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

**Kasturirangan Committee Report on conservation of the Western Ghats**

1991 DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) whether Government agreed to the recommendations made in the Kasturirangan Committee Report concerning the conservation of the Western Ghats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the same;
- (c) whether Government is planning to issue the final notification that identifies and defines ecologically sensitive areas based on the recommendations from Dr. Kasturirangan Panel Report; and
- (d) whether the status of Ecologically Sensitive Areas for Maharashtra and Gujarat has been confirmed, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) In order to protect the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats, this Ministry has issued draft Notification on Ecologically Sensitive Area of Western Ghats, vide S.O. 3060(E) dated 31.07.2024 with an area of 56,825 sq. km., spread across six States, namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

Further, in order to address the issues raised by the stakeholders including the respective State Governments while finalizing the draft notification, the Ministry has constituted a Committee to examine the suggestions received in this regard in a holistic manner, keeping in view the conservation aspects of the disaster prone pristine ecosystem, and the rights, privileges, needs and developmental aspirations of the region. The proposal of the State Governments and other stakeholders are examined on merits by the Committee in consultation with the respective State Governments, including Maharashtra and Gujarat for finalizing its recommendations.

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