

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2776
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

Conservation of Western Ghats

2776. SHRI VAIKO:

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

- (a) whether Government issued draft notification classifying parts of the Western Ghats in six States as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the affected States have raised objections, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government would discuss with individual States to resolve the issue regarding objections, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the fate of Kasturirangan panel report on the conservation of Western Ghats; and
- (f) by when Government would notify the report for conservation of Western Ghats, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) In order to protect the fragile ecosystem as well as the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats regions and considering its ecological significance, this Ministry has re-published the draft notification 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, based on the report of the High Level Working Group, chaired by Dr. K. Kasturirangan.

Further, to address the issues raised by the respective State Governments, a Committee has been constituted by the Ministry to examine the suggestions of all the State Governments and stakeholders in a holistic manner keeping in view the conservation aspects of the fragile and 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, before finalization of the draft notification.
