

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1340
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

Noise pollution in mountain eco-sensitive zones

1340 SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) whether the impact of noise generated from tourist vehicles, generators and adventure sports on wildlife habitats in mountain national parks and eco-sensitive zones has been assessed;
- (b) the number of noise violation complaints received by CPCB and State pollution Boards in mountain tourist areas during the last three years and the penalties imposed thereon; and
- (c) whether night-time noise standards specific to mountain eco-sensitive zones have been notified and if not, the reasons therefor along with the timeline proposed for notifying the same?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 establish a comprehensive legal framework for managing environmental noise levels across India to protect public health and well-being. The said Rules establish that District Magistrate, Police Commissioner, or any other officer not below the rank of the Deputy Superintendent of Police is included as “authority” apart from concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) to enforce these standards, process public complaints, and issue orders to prevent noise-related disturbances, the details of which are maintained by the respective State Governments/ UTs.

Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 mandates the categorization of land into industrial, commercial, residential, and silence zones, with specific decibel limits assigned for both day and night. It imposes strict restrictions on loudspeakers, musical instruments, construction equipment, and firecrackers, particularly during the night time of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Additionally, the rules define silence zones as areas extending 100 meters around hospitals, courts, and schools where sound-producing activities are most tightly controlled.

Further, in order to manage and conserve biodiversity across the Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notifies Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) around the Protected Areas. Survey and identification of ESZs are conducted by the respective State Governments for consideration of the Central Government for declaration of the ESZs in respective States around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries as per the guidelines formulated by the MoEFCC. On the basis of proposals and recommendations of the State Government, Ministry notifies the ESZs under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which mandates prevention and control of noise pollution in the ESZ in accordance with the provisions of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.
