

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.164**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2017

**Ecologically Sensitive Areas**

\* 164 ADV. CHINTAMAN NAVASHA WANAGA :

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

- (a) whether the Government has declared certain areas as ecologically sensitive/fragile areas in the Country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Dahanu area in Maharashtra; and
- (c) whether the Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority constituted/appointed in the year 1996 is still working under the same Chairmanship and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to Parts (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 164 for reply on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 regarding “Ecologically Sensitive Areas” raised by Adv. Chintaman Navasha Wanaga .**

(a&b) To provide special protection to landscape, biodiversity, wildlife, historical value, regulate the developmental activities and ensure sustainable development, Central Government has been notifying the Eco-sensitive Areas (ESA) from time to time in exercise of the powers conferred under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986. So far, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEF&CC) has notified eight ESAs in the country. Besides, one draft notification to declare ESA for Western Ghats has recently been published inviting public comments/views. A state-wise detail of ESA is annexed.

(c) The MEF&CC vide its Notification No. S.O. 416 (E) dated 20<sup>th</sup> June, 1991 has notified Dahanu Taluka as an Ecologically Fragile Area. Subsequently, pursuant to the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court, MEF&CC vide its Notification No. S.O. 884 (E), dated 19th December, 1996, has constituted an Authority known as “Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority” in the State of Maharashtra, for protection of eco-fragile character of Dahanu Region under the Chairmanship of Shri Chandrashekhar Shankar Dharmadhikari (Retired Judge of High Court, Mumbai). It is an independent Authority. The Supreme Court vide its order dated 9th September, 2002 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 231 of 1994 directed that “the Authority shall continue to function till further orders of this Court”. In compliance of this order, the MEF&CC amended the notification vide S.O.No.1211 (E), dated 18th Nov. 2002.

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**Annexure regarding Details Of Eco-Sensitive Areas Notified Till Date to the starred question no. 164 for reply on 14th March 2017 “Ecologically Sensitive Areas” raised by Adv. Chintaman Navasha Wanaga**

Sl. No.	Name of the ESA/restricted zone	District/ State	Area Covered	Date of Notification
1.	Dahanu Taluka	Thane, Maharashtra	990 sq. km	20.06.1991
2.	Bhagirathi	Uttarkashi District, Uttarakhand	4179.59 sq. km	18.12.2012
3.	Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani	Satara District, Maharashtra	237.28 sq. km	17.01.2001
4.	Matheran	Raigad & Thane Districts, Maharashtra	214.73 sq. km	04.02.2003
5.	Mount Abu	Sirohi District, Rajasthan	-	25.06.2009
6.	Doon Valley	Uttarakhand	-	01.02.1989
7.	Aravalli Range	Gurgaon District of Haryana and Alwar District of Rajasthan	-	07.05.1992
8.	Numaligarh (No Development Zone)	Golaghat District, Assam	Around 15 km from refinery	05.07.1996
<b>Draft ESA Notification</b>				
9.	Western Ghats (Draft notification issued)	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu	Gujarat: 449 sq. km	28.02.2017
			Maharashtra: 17340 sq.km	
			Goa: 1461 sq. km	
			Karnataka: 20668 sq. km	
			Tamil Nadu: 6914 sq. km	
			<b>Total: 59940 sq. km</b>	

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