

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4621**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2018

**Kasturirangan Panel Report**

4621. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision about the final notification on the Kasturirangan panel report relating to the conservation of Western Ghats; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) & (b) The High Level Working Group (HLWG) under the Dr. Kasturirangan, has delineated the Western Ghats with an area of 164280 Square kms extending over 1500 kms in 188 talukas spread over six state (i) Kerala (ii) Tamil Nadu (iii) Goa (iv) Karnataka (v) Maharashtra and (vi) Gujarat. HLWG has demarcated approximately 37% of the total Geographical area of the Western Ghats as Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).

To facilitate sustainable development in the region, HLWG recommended the Central Government to notify the ESA demarcated by HLWG in public interest. Accordingly, this Ministry had issued a Draft Notification on 10.03.2014 declaring an area of 56,825 square kilometres spread over the six states in the Western Ghats region as Ecologically Sensitive, Thereafter, addressing the concerns and apprehensions of the people living in the ESA of the Western Ghats region, subsequent Draft Notifications dated 04.09.2015 and 27.02.2017 were published for seeking stakeholder comments, including those of State Governments.

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