

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6631
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks

6631. **SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:**

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court had directed the Government to create eco-sensitive zones around the national parks and had also laid down some conditions in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure/maintain sanctity of eco-sensitive zones around the national parks and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any permission is required for bringing any changes/doing away with water bodies, disposal of waste water or watersheds around eco-sensitive zones; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Hon'ble Supreme Court had issued directives for creation of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks in connection with Writ Petition No. 460/2004, on 4th December 2006, Hon'ble Court had directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests to give a final opportunity to all States/Union Territories to respond to the letter dated 27.5.2005, wherein the MoEFCC communicated the decision of the National Board for Wildlife and had requested for submission of site specific proposals for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Park and Sanctuaries.

Hon'ble Court had also mentioned in the said order that the MoEF would also refer cases where environment clearance has already been granted where activities are within 10 km. zone to the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife .

- (c) The important steps to ensure/maintain the sanctity of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National parks include:
- (i) In pursuance of the said order, the Ministry of Environment and Forest issued an Office Memorandum No. J-11013/41/2006-IA. II(I) dated 2nd December 2009 stipulating that while granting environmental clearance to projects located within 10 km of National Parks and Sanctuary, a specific condition shall be stipulated that the environmental clearance is subject to their obtaining prior clearance from Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife.
 - (ii) In 2011, the Ministry prepared guidelines for facilitating submission of proposals.
 - (iii) The activities in the ESZ are monitored by a Monitoring Committee, chaired by the District Collector as the chairman and the DCF of the concerned National Park/Sanctuary as the Member Secretary.
- (d) and (e) All activities in the Eco sensitive Zone are governed as per the provisions contained in the Notification. Activities for altering or terminating water bodies or water sheds around eco-sensitive zones are governed by provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules made there under. Other applicable laws including the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are also applicable.
