

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.82**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2018

**Buffer Zones for Conservation of Environment**

82. SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE:

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

- (a) whether buffer zones have been developed in the country for conservation of environment; and
- (b) if so, the number of such buffer zones developed in the country along with the number of proposals for setting up such new zones pending with the Government?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under subsection (1) read with clause (v) and clause (xiv) of subsection (2) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) read with sub-rule (3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, notifies Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries for protection of environment and biodiversity. The Eco-Sensitive Zones also act as buffer in protection to the rich biodiversity inside the National Parks and Sanctuaries.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has received proposals covering 630 National Parks and Sanctuaries from the State/UT Governments for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones. Based on the proposals received from the State/UT Governments, the Ministry has notified proposals covering 443 National Parks and Sanctuaries.

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