

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1733
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2018

Eco-Sensitive Zones in Wildlife Sanctuaries

1733. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI BHARATHI MOHAN R.K.:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:
SHRIMATI V. SATHYA BAMA:
SHRI P.R. SENTHIL NATHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) across the country and if so, the details thereof along with the criteria set for the purpose;
- (b) whether the Government has reevaluated the boundaries of ESZ in wildlife parks and sanctuaries in the country, including Tamil Nadu and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government had formed any high level Committee for conducting inspection and verification of ESZ in various wildlife parks in the country;
- (d) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has allowed to reduce ESZ area of certain wildlife sanctuaries and national parks in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government to protect the habitat of a number of endangered animal species belonging to these sanctuaries and national parks?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries, under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for protection of environment and biodiversity. So far, the Ministry has notified 166 Eco-Sensitive Zones proposals covering 283 Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks.

The criteria for identification of Eco-Sensitive Zones, as agreed by National Board for Wildlife are as follows:

- i. Complete protection to endemic species in its entire range;
 - ii. Development processes not to reduce, damage or destroy the habitat of critically endangered or any other threatened species;
 - iii. Protection to biological corridors;
 - iv. Protection to highly complex and diversified ecosystem susceptible to irreversible damage , like coral reefs, mangroves, etc.
 - v. Sites associated with reproductive, breeding or nurturing behaviour of rare and threatened species;
 - vi. Existence of pristine forests;
 - vii. Steep slopes (more than 60°)
- (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not reevaluated the boundaries of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries, including those in Tamil Nadu, after issuance of notification.
- (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not constituted any high level committee for conducting inspection and verification of Eco-Sensitive Zones in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not reduced the area of Eco-Sensitive Zone after issuance of notification.
- (f) Does not arise in view of (e) above
