

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4051
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2018

Reduction in Eco-sensitive Zones

4051. SHRI P.C. MOHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the State Government of Karnataka had reduced the Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of Bannerghatta National Park in Bengaluru from 268.96 sq. km. to 181.57 sq. km. in June, 2017 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the draft notification sent by the Karnataka Forest Department to his Ministry in 2016 has lapsed and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has accorded extension of the buffer zone in the National Park and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is aware of the illegal mining and many other proposed urban development projects which are a threat to the ESZ and if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Government mark the final notification of the ESZ to declare the exact limits of the buffer zone; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government against the State Government to stop illegal mining in ESZs?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had published the draft Notification to declare Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the Bannerghatta National Park in Karnataka with an ESZ Area of 268.96 square kilo-meters and the ESZ Extent varying between 100 meters and 4.5 kilo-meters on 15.06.2016. The draft Notification was considered in the ESZ Expert Committee Meeting held on 28.02.2017. The representative of the State Government mentioned that ESZ area has been reduced to 181.57 square kilo-meters. Also, this Ministry received several representations from various stakeholders which were forwarded to State Government for their views to finalise the draft Notification. Due to non submission of the views by the State Government, validity of the said Draft Notification expired.

(d) & (e) References were received relating to illegal mining around Bannergahata National Park, which have been forwarded to State Government for appropriate action and report.
