

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1122**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

**Conservation of Western Ghats**

1122. 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;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons there for and the time by which the final notification is likely to be issued?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) Based on the recommendation of High Level Working Group (HLWG) to declare Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) of the Western Ghats, Government had issued first draft Notification *vide* S.O. 733 (E) on 10.02.2014. As the validity of the draft Notification is 545 days, to continue the Notification process, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has republished the draft Notification thrice *vide* S.O. 2435 (E) on 04.09.2015, S.O. 667 (E) on 27.02.2017 and S.O. 5135 (E) on 03.10.2018.

After republishing the latest draft Notification on 03.10.2018, MoEF&CC has sought views /comments of the state Governments of Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa. MoEF&CC is willing to finalise the ESA Notification in consultation with all the States of the Western Ghats region.

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