

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 466**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023**

**Ecologically Sensitive Areas**

466. SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH:  
ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:  
ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:  
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision about the fifth draft notification issued by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, during the year 2022, for the conservation of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the final notification is likely to be issued; and
- (d) whether the Government considered separate final notification for the State of Kerala and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d) With a view to issue the final notification to declare Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) of the Western Ghats, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued for the fifth time the draft Notification *vide* S.O. 3072 (E) on 06.07.2022, with an eco-sensitive area of 56,825 square kilometres spreading over six States, namely, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. With persisting demand from the States to reduce/alter the ESA area from the recommendation of the Kasturirangan Panel (High Level Working Group) Report, the final Notification for Western Ghats ESA could not be issued so far. The period of validity for finalisation of the present draft notification is 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

In order to address the issues raised by the State Governments, the Ministry have also constituted a Committee to re-examine the suggestions of the six State Governments and to make appropriate recommendations. The tenure of the committee is till 31st March, 2024.

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