

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1329**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

**Western Ghats**

1329. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH:  
ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Kasturirangan Committee Report relating to the conservation of Western Ghats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to implement the same;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has decided to issue separate orders for each State; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (e) In order to protect and conserve Western Ghats, MoEFCC had constituted two Committees viz, the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) headed by Prof. Madhav Gadgil and the High Level Working Group (HLWG) headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan, to review the recommendations of the WGEEP. On the basis of the report of the HLWG, MoEFCC issued a draft notification on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2014, declaring biologically and culturally diverse areas as Eco-sensitive Area, requiring protection and conservation. Considering the views and concerns of the respective State Governments and addressing the concerns and apprehensions of public/stakeholders, the draft of Western Ghats Eco-sensitive Area was re-notified for the fifth time on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 and a Committee has also been specifically constituted to assist in consultation with the State Governments for finalizing the notification. The validity of the draft notification is till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

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