

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 293**  
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

**Demarcation of Ecologically Sensitive Areas**

293. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is intending to release the final notification identifying and demarcating Ecologically Sensitive Areas as per the recommendations of Dr. Kasturirangan Panel Report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the status of Ecologically Sensitive Areas with respect to Kerala and Karnataka has been finalised, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has been formally communicated by the State Governments of Kerala and Karnataka regarding the concerns pertaining to the recommendations of the said Report adversely affecting the livelihood of people in the region;
- (e) if so, whether the Government proposes to revise the estimation of recommendations of the said Report in order to allay the concerns raised by various States including Kerala where a significant population resides in and around the proposed buffer zones; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (f) In order to protect the rich biodiversity of Western Ghats, this Ministry has issued draft Notification on Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Area *vide* S.O. 3072(E) on 06.07.2022 with an area of 56,825 square kilometre spreading over six States, namely, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, based on the report submitted by the High Level Working Group (HLWG) Chaired by Dr. Kasturirangan.

The States have persistently asked for modification in the Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA) included in the aforesaid draft notification. In order to address the issues raised by the State Governments, the Ministry has constituted a Committee to re-examine the suggestions of the six State Governments in a holistic manner, keeping in view the conservation aspects of the disaster prone pristine ecosystem, and the rights, privileges, needs and developmental aspirations of the region. The Committee is chaired by Ex-Director General of Forest and Special Secretary and its tenure is till 31.03.2024. The concerns of the State Governments including Kerala and Karnataka are deliberated by the Committee and based on the recommendation of the said Committee; the Central Government will proceed with early finalisation of the notification.

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