

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 418**  
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

**Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks/Sanctuaries**

418. SHRI GNANATHIRAVIAM S.:

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a new policy for fast-track reduction of eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries;
- (b) the number of applications cleared to reduce eco-sensitive zones around National Parks in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the public has demanded protection of eco-sensitive zones and water bodies in areas adjacent to National Parks; and
- (d) the steps to be taken by Government to reverse the dilution of policies affecting eco-sensitive zones in the country?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) No Sir.
- (b) to (d) Notified Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries are based on proposals submitted by the respective State Governments or Union territory administrations after duly examining such proposals as per the 'Guidelines' issued by the Ministry on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 and OM issued on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 as well as in accordance with the extant statutory provisions and relevant directions/ orders issued from time to time. Delineation of Eco-sensitive Zones are site-specific and in accordance with the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, which mandates publication of draft notification for seeking objections and suggestions from concerned stakeholders for a period of sixty days.

The Ministry has issued fifty one final ESZ notifications covering sixty four Protected Areas in the last three years and the current year.

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