

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3204
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2019

Conservation of Western Ghats

3204. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH :

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 of the Kasturirangan panel report relating to the conservation of Western Ghats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which final notification is likely to be issued?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) to (c) With a view to issue final notification to declare Ecologically Sensitive Areas of the Western Ghats, this Ministry has issued draft Notification *vide* S.O. 733 (E) on 10.02.2014, with an eco-sensitive area of 56,825 square kilometres spreading over six States, namely, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu based on the report submitted by the Kasturirangan panel.

With persisting demand from the States to reduce/alter the ESA area from the recommendation of the High Level Working Group (HLWG) [(Kasturirangan panel)], the final Notification could not be issued so far. To continue with the Notification process, the Ministry has republished the draft Notification thrice, *vide* S.O. 2435 (E) dated 04.09.2015; S.O. 667 (E) dated 27.02.2017 and S.O. 5135 (E) dated 03.10.2018 with same ESA area. After issuing the latest draft Notification, this Ministry has held stakeholder consultations. The validity of draft notification is 30th March, 2020.
