

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4282
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2019.

Bannerghata National Park

4282. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has sought any information from the State of Karnataka to reconsider the Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Bannerghata National Park (BNP), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any reply from the State Government of Karnataka on the ESZ around BNP, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the declaration of ESZ would have checked the ecologically damaging activities around BNP, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the farming or building a farmhouse in an area inside ESZ would be affected, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had vide letter dated 20th August 2019 requested the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (WL) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka, for reconsidering the proposal for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zone around Bannerghatta National Park in the light of likely impact to elephant corridors and overall ecology of the region.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Ecology, Government of Karnataka, vide letter dated 27th November 2019 had mentioned that the draft final notification proposal for the Bannerghata Eco-Sensitive Zone area of 168.84 Sq.km, was approved by the Cabinet Sub-Committee constituted for recommending the Eco-Sensitive Zone proposals to Government of India. It was also mentioned by the State Government that a radius of 1 km around the boundary of Bannerghata National Park has been declared as "Safe Zone" under Rule 3(2) of Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rule 1960 Notification dated 10.01.1991 and as Bannerghata National Park is located close to Bengaluru city, it

was inevitable to maintain a minimum width of ESZ in private lands around the National Park.

- (c), (d) and (e) The purpose of delineation of Eco-sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries is to accord protection to the biodiversity inside the National Parks/Sanctuaries and to act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection. Certain activities that are detrimental of biodiversity of National parks/Sanctuaries are prohibited in the Eco-Sensitive Zones, while other are regulated or permitted. All activities in the Eco sensitive Zone are governed as per the provisions contained in the Notification.

Further, the activities in the Eco-Sensitive Zones are monitored by a Monitoring Committee, chaired by the District Collector as the chairman and the DCF of the concerned National Park/Sanctuary as the Member Secretary
