

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 249**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

**ESZ Proposals for Wildlife Sanctuaries**

**\*249. SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN:**

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

- (a) whether his Ministry had received the Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) proposals in respect of three wildlife sanctuaries in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the justification provided/offered by the State Government of Kerala in respect of each proposal;
- (c) whether the Government has rejected these proposals and if so, the details thereof and also the reasons for rejection of these proposals;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to re-examine the same in the near future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)**

- (a) to (e)      A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*249 REGARDING “ESZ PROPOSALS FOR WILDLIFE  
SANCTUARIES” BY SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN FOR REPLY ON 12.03.2021.**

- (a) and (b)      The Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has received 17 ESZ proposals for all the 23 National Parks and Sanctuaries from the Government of Kerala. The details of the ESZ proposals received along with justification of Government of Kerala and status of the proposals are at **Annexure**.
- (c ) to (e)      ESZ of Mathikettan Shola National Park has been notified on 28.12.2020. All other Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) proposals are at various stages of consideration.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) and (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*249 DUE FOR REPLY ON 12.03.2021 REGARDING “ESZ PROPOSALS FOR WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES”**

S. No.	Protected Areas	Justification	Status
1.	MathikettanShola National Park	Mathikettan Shola National Park is rich in endemic flora and fauna, and the habitat is the last remnant of the original forests of the Cardamom Hill Reserve. It provides perennial supply of water from Uchinikuthipuzha, Mathikettanpuzha and Njandar tributaries of Panniyar for meeting the agricultural and drinking water requirements of Santhanpara, Pooppara area. It is, therefore, necessary to conserve and protect the area around the national park from ecological, environmental and biodiversity point of view by notifying ESZ and to prohibit industries or class of industries and their operations and processes in the said ESZ. The extent of ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 1.00 kilometer around the boundary of Mathikettan Shola National Park and the area of is 17.5 square kilometer. The zero ESZ in the North East and East boundary is due to the interstate boundary with Tamil Nadu State.	Final notification issued on 28.12.2020
2.	Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary	The forests of Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary and adjacent areas represent the compact protected patch of vegetation belonging to the unique vegetation sub-type viz., the <i>Dipterocarpus-Mesua-Palaquium</i> sub-type in Kerala. This is the only area where maximum number of Malabar pied hornbill is met within the Kerala portion of Western Ghat. Aralam Sanctuary forms the catchment area of two tributaries, Cheenkannipuzha and Urittipuzha of Valapattanam river and forms part of the Wayanad Elephant Reserve. It forms a contiguous block of forest with the Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka and also with the forests of Kodagu District in Karnataka and also with Kootiyor Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala. The Sanctuary harbours rich biodiversity, several endemic to Western	Draft re-notified on 20.07.2020

S. No.	Protected Areas	Justification	Status
		Ghats, and it is necessary to conserve and protect the area around Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary as ESZ from ecological and environmental point of view and to prohibit industries or class of industries and their operations and processes in the said ESZ. The extent of proposed ESZ is up to 3.06 kilometer from the boundary of Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary spread over an area of 12.40 square kilometer.	
3.	Kottiyoor Wildlife Sanctuary	Kottiyoor Sanctuary forms the catchment area of Bavalipuzha river and two perennial rivers Kudakampuzha and Manhalipuzha which are tributaries of Bavalipuzha originate in the Sanctuary i.e., forms part of the Wayanad Elephant Reserve and forms a contiguous block of forest stretching from adjacent Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary and northern slopes of Wayanad area and represent a compact patch of unique <i>Dipterocarpus-Mesua-Palaquim</i> vegetation sub-type. It is, therefore, necessary to conserve and protect the area around the protected area of Kottiyoor Wildlife Sanctuary as ESZ from ecological and environmental point of view and to prohibit industries or class of industries and their operations and processes in the said ESZ. The extent of proposed ESZ is up to 1 kilometer from the boundary of Kottiyoor Wildlife Sanctuary spread over an area of 22.34 square kilometer.	Draft re-notified on 24.08.2020
4.	Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary	Shendurney Sanctuary is home to a rich and diverse range of living organisms. The forests of Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary assume importance for conservation. It is, therefore, necessary to conserve and protect the area around Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary as ESZ from ecological, environmental and biodiversity point of view and to prohibit industries or class of industries and their operations and processes in the said ESZ. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 6.50 kilometers around the boundary of Shendurney Wildlife	Draft re-notified on 24.08.2020

S. No.	Protected Areas	Justification	Status
		Sanctuaries spread over an area of 116.457 square kilometers. Zero extent of proposed ESZ is due to the fact that the north-east, east and south-east side of the sanctuary share boundary with the Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve and Nellai Wildlife Sanctuary of Tamil Nadu and area near the boundary in north-west side is densely populated. Near Kollam-Shenkottai railway line where the distance of the ESZ is limited to 20 meters.	
5.	Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary	Malabar Sanctuary is characterized with high diversity of flora and the vegetation of the region varies from hill top evergreen forests to tropical evergreen forests, semi evergreen forests and moist deciduous forests. The Sanctuary harbours several endemic and many re-discovered species with a few species occurring only within the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is the major watershed in the district of Kozhikode and drains in to several streams and rivulets which finally feeds two major rivers. The Sanctuary has a reservoir which in turn feeds major hydro-electric, drinking water and irrigation project in Kozhikode district. It is necessary to conserve and protect the area around the sanctuary as ESZ from ecological, environmental and biodiversity point of view and to prohibit industries or class of industries and their operations and processes in the said ESZ. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 1.0 kilometer around the boundary of the Sanctuary spread over an area of 53.60 square kilometers. Zero extent of proposed ESZ is due to hydro-electric project area and tribal settlements are situated adjoining to southern boundary of the Sanctuary.	Draft re-notified on 05.08.2020
6.	Idduki Wildlife Sanctuary	The area is a part of Nagarampara Reserve Forests and forms the catchment area of Periyar River and caters to Idduki Hydel Project. The Sanctuary is an isolated patch of forests which was cut off from the adjacent areas due to development process and habitat destruction. As a result, the gene flow connectivity of Idduki	Draft re-notified on 13.08.2020

S. No.	Protected Areas	Justification	Status
		Wildlife Sanctuary with the adjacent protected areas in the landscape is totally cut off. With the intention of conserving the remaining land which forms the catchment of the reservoir and is highly necessary for the existence of this project, the mainland along with the water body was notified as a Sanctuary in the same year. The forest surrounding the reservoir forms a conducive habitat for wildlife and is rich in biodiversity. It is necessary to conserve and protect the area around the sanctuary as ESZ from ecological, environmental and biodiversity point of view and to prohibit industries or class of industries and their operations and processes in the said ESZ. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 450 meters to 1.00 kilometers around the boundary of Idukki Wildlife Sanctuary spread over an area of 88.238 square kilometers.	
7.	Thattekkad Wildlife Sanctuary	The Sanctuary has been notified considering the ecological, faunal, floral, natural and zoological significance. The Sanctuary is considered as one of the richest bird Sanctuaries. It is part of a large ecological unit comprising of Malayattoor, Sholayar, Parambikulam hill ranges on the one side and Munnar, Eravikulam and Chinnar on the other side which support diverse vegetation types from Evergreen to Scrub forests which enables the birds in their seasonal migration. The proposed ESZ is upto 1 kilometers around the boundary of Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary spread over an area of 28.444 square kilometres.	Draft re-notified on 29.09.2020
8.	Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary	Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary supports good number of flora, avifauna, bats, other animals and other floral species. The specialized ecosystems accommodate a variety of marine and freshwater organisms as their nursery and feeding grounds. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 1.0 kilometer around the boundary of Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary spread over an area of 0.53 square kilometers. Zero extent of proposed ESZ in the	Draft re-notified on 07.09.2020

S. No.	Protected Areas	Justification	Status
		South-west boundary of the sanctuary is due to the very old buildings of Kerala High Court and Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute along the boundary of the sanctuary.	
9.	Silent Valley National Park	Silent Valley National Park has rich floral and faunal diversity. The National Park is the major watershed of Kunthipuzha and a major source of water for drinking and irrigation purposes. The park also supports one of the few viable populations of the endangered Western Ghat endemic primate, the lion-tailed Macaque. The Silent Valley and the adjacent forests of Western Ghats represent “Ecological islands”.The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 9.8 kilometers around the boundary of Silent Valley National Park spread over an area of 148 square kilometers. Zero extent of proposed ESZ towards the North boundary of the Silent Valley National Park is due to border with Mukuruthi National Park.	Draft re-notified on 27.10.2020
10.	Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary	The Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the Anamudi Elephant Reserve. More than 50% area of the sanctuary is under high conservation value zones and the rest under medium conservation value zones with outstanding species diversity and endemic wealth. The area has exceptional medicinal plant diversity. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 7.0 kilometers around the boundary of Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary spread over an area of 92.53 square kilometers. The zero extent of proposed ESZ at Northern boundary starting from Mangattukomban to Ponmudi is lying adjoining to Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary. This stretch is a very good semi evergreen patch without any disturbance. The zero extent of proposed ESZ at Eastern boundary starting from Pundimudi to Kavala is lying adjoining with Parambikulam Tiger Reserve. This stretch is a very good semi-evergreen patch without any disturbance.	Draft re-notified on 25.11.2020
11.	Choolannur	The Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary is the only	Draft re-notified

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	Peafowl Sanctuary	representation of a protected area for peafowl in the state of Kerala which has viable Peafowl population. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 100 meters to 3.0 kilometers around the boundary of Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary spread over an area of 8.86 square kilometers.	on 25.11.2020
12.	Peechi Wildlife Sanctuary	Peechi- Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary has a very high faunal and floral diversity. The Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary is a part of the Anamudi Elephant Reserve in the State. The Sanctuary is the catchment of Peechi and Vazhani reservoirs by way of their favorable influence on soil and water. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 6.2 kilometers around the boundary of Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary spread over an area of 131.54 square kilometers. The zero extent of proposed ESZ at South – East boundary starting from Mangattukomban to Ponmudi is lying adjoining with Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary.	Draft re-notified on 25.11.2020
13.	Parambikulam Tiger Reserve	Parambikulam Tiger Reserve supports diverse habitat types viz., evergreen forests, moist and dry deciduous forests, grasslands etc. The Tiger Reserve supports healthy population of several endangered fauna. The presence of tigers and other co-predators in the landscape emphasizes the ecological importance of this region. The construction of three dams in the Tiger Reserve has created a new aquatic habitat attracting several species of water birds that were not originally seen in this area. Parambikulam Tiger Reserve supports one of the highest densities of Gaur population in Southern India. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 10.09 kilometers around the boundary of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve spread over an area of 331.352 square kilometers. Zero extent of proposed ESZ on the north-west and east directions (the Core Zone of Parambikulam) is due to the fact it shares boundary with adjoining Anamalai Tiger Reserve. Similarly, zero extent of proposed ESZ for an extent of 8.5 kilometers	Draft re-notified on 28.01.2021



S. No.	Protected Areas	Justification	Status
		length along the western boundary of Core Zone of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is due to the fact that it share its boundary with Chimmony Wildlife Sanctuary. Zero extent of proposed ESZ on the north-east, east and south-east (around 31 kilometers) directions of the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is due to its shared boundary with Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.	
14.	Eravikulam National Park (5 Protected Areas)	<p>The Eravikulam National Park and four adjoining protected areas viz, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Anamudi Shola National Park, Kurinjimala Wildlife Sanctuary and Pambadum Shola National Park are home to a wide and diverse range of endemic, endangered flora and fauna. The Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary is the prominent catchment area of an east flowing river Pambar and the immediate catchment of Amaravathy reservoir in Tamil Nadu. Anamudi Shola National Park represents a large number of plants and animals unique to the high altitude. Kurinjimala Wildlife Sanctuary has rare, threatened and endangered species. The major vegetation of the Pambadum Shola National Park consists mostly of southern subtropical hill forests with shola-grassland system at the higher altitudes. Pambadum Shola National Park is a corridor connecting Kannan Devan Hills and Palani Hills and having a significant population of endemic species with exceptional diversity. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 1.0 kilometres around the boundaries of Eravikulam National Park, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Anamudi Shola National Park, Kurinjimala Wildlife Sanctuary and Pambadum Shola National Park.</p> <p>The zero extent of proposed ESZ in the Northern side of Eravikulam National Park is due to the fact that this part is contiguous with the Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu while North-Eastern boundary is contiguous with Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary.</p>	Draft re-notified on 12.01.2021

S. No.	Protected Areas	Justification	Status
		The zero extent of proposed ESZ in other directions is due to the fact that it is contiguous with notified reserve of Munnar territorial division. Zero kilometer extent in north, north-east and east boundary is due to the interstate boundary.	
15.	Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary	<p>Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary harbours diverse floristic and faunal components of Western Ghats. The forests of Wayanad Wildlife Division form the major catchments for the tributaries of Kabani river system, which is the lifeline of the eastern portion of Wayanad plateau as well as adjoining plains of Karnataka. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is the only Sanctuary of Kerala where sightings of four-horned antelope are reported.</p> <p>The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 3.4 kilometres around the boundary of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary spread over an area of 118.59 square kilometers. As the Northern region of the WS-I part of Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is contiguous with Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary of Karnataka State, so the extent is zero in that direction. The North-eastern and eastern side boundary of WS-I part is Nagarhole Tiger Reserve of Karnataka State and so the extent is zero in those directions also. WS-II region of Wayanad wildlife sanctuary have Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka state in the Northern boundary and so the extent is zero in that direction. North - Eastern region and eastern region of WS II region is surrounded by Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka state and so the extent is zero. South-West direction of WS-II region is Mudhumalai Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu and so the extent is zero in this direction.</p>	Draft notified on 28.01.2021
16.	Periyar Tiger Reserve (2 Protected Areas)	<p>Periyar Tiger Reserve support several endangered faunal species and many endemic species with great diversity of flora and fauna. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 1 kilometer. The entire north and north-east region of the Periyar Tiger Reserve have</p>	Revised proposal has been received from State Government. However, clarifications

S. No.	Protected Areas	Justification	Status
		different forest boundaries such as Megamalai Sanctuary, Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Sanctuary and Thirunelveli forest division of Tamil Nadu State. Therefore, the extent of proposed ESZ is zero in that direction.	sought from the State Government have not been received.
17.	Neyyar- Peppara WLS (2 <i>Protected Areas</i> )	Neyyar and Peppara Wildlife Sanctuaries are rich in biodiversity and also have economic benefits, culture, watershed and aesthetic significance. The Sanctuaries harbour almost all the major mammals of peninsular India. The extent of proposed ESZ varies from 0 (zero) to 1.00 kilometer. The zero extent of proposed ESZ is taken wherever there is an inter-state boundary sharing with Tamil Nadu (Eastern side of Neyyar and Peppara Wildlife Sanctuaries). The Neyyar and Peppara Wildlife Sanctuaries share the common boundaries and also come under the same administration.	Revised proposal received from State Government and under examination for re-publication of draft Notification.

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