

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2480
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

Western Ghats

2480. SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to implement any scientific report on Western Ghats; if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Government has given approval for proposed Tunnelling of Western Ghats from Kodenchery to Kalladi through Western Ghats; if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Draft notification for declaration of Western Ghats Eco-sensitive Area has been issued by the Central Government vide S.O. 5135(E), dated 3rd October, 2018 on the basis of recommendations by the High Level Working Group (HLWG) under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan. The recommendation of the HLWG involves six states viz. Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, covering an area of 59,940.7 sq.km. The draft notification has been issued for an area of 56,825.70 sq.km keeping in view the representation of Kerala. The validity of the draft notification is upto 31st December, 2021.
- (b) A proposal for "Construction of Twin Tunnel (2+2 Lane) with Four Lane approach (from existing roads) including approaches (from existing roads) for providing direct connectivity between Aanakampoyil Kalladi-Meppadi in Kozhikode and Wayanad Districts of Kerala State" has been received in the Ministry on 16.11.2021 for grant of Terms of Reference in accordance with the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006.
