

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4054
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022

Assessment of Western Ghats

4054. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) Whether the Government conducts regular assessment of the Western Ghats and the parts that have been declared ecologically sensitive, if so, the details thereof along with percentage area that has been declared ecologically sensitive; and
- (b) Whether the Government feels there is a need to implement the recommendations of the Madhav Gadgil Committee Report of 2011 in the wake of the floods in Kerala, if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a)&(b) The Central Government has so far not declared any areas falling in the Western Ghats region as ecologically sensitive. However, a draft notification for declaration of Western Ghats as Eco-sensitive Area has been issued by the Central Government vide S.O. 5135(E), dated 3rd October, 2018 on the basis of recommendations made by the High Level Working Group (HLWG) under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan. The High Level Working Group (HLWG) was constituted on 17th August, 2012 to *inter-alia* examine the Report submitted by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel in a holistic and multidisciplinary fashion. 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 validity of the draft notification is up to 30 June, 2022.
