

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 18.07.2022

Ban on Development Projects in ESZs

4. SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:
SHRI RAVI KISHAN:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court of India has directed the Government to have 1km Eco-Sensitive Zone(ESZ) at every protected forest and no development projects will be allowed within that periphery;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the SC has also directed the Government not to allow mining work in Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks and if so, the details;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Governments in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has approved the draft notification for delineation and recognition of nine animal corridors to the south of Kaziranga National Park and if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which it is likely to be done?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a)to (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court vide their judgment dated 3rd June 2022 in I A No. 1000 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995, has directed that each protected forest, that is national park or wildlife sanctuary must have an Eco- sensitive Zone (ESZ) of

minimum one kilometer measured from the demarcated boundary of such protected forest in which the activities proscribed and prescribed in the Guidelines of 9th February, 2011 shall be strictly adhered to.

Further, as per the said judgment, the minimum width of the ESZ may be diluted in overwhelming public interest but for that purpose the State or Union Territory concerned shall approach the CEC and MoEF&CC and both these bodies shall give their respective opinions/ recommendations before the Hon'ble Court. On that basis, Hon'ble Supreme Court shall pass appropriate order.

Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed that mining within National Parks and Sanctuaries shall not be permitted. As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change dated 9th February 2011 for declaration of eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries, commercial mining has been already indicated as one of the prohibited activities within notified Eco Sensitive Zones.

- (e) As informed by the State Government of Assam, in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court order, a notification no. FRW.7/2022/pt.V/01. dated 01.04.2022 regarding identification and delineation of nine animal corridors connecting Kaziranga National Park and Karbi Anglong Hills has been issued by the Government of Assam.
