

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 45**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

**Notification on Demarcation of Ecologically Sensitive Areas**

45 SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:  
ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE:  
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is intending to release the final notification identifying and demarcating Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) as per the recommendations contained in Dr. Kasturirangan Panel Report, if so, the details thereof along with the present status of the same;
- (b) whether the final status of ESAs with respect to the States of Kerala and Karnataka has been finalized;
- (c) if not, whether the Government has fixed a timeline for finalizing the ESAs and releasing a final notification regarding the same, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has been formally communicated by the said State Governments regarding the concerns pertaining to the livelihood of people in the region; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government proposes to revise the recommendations in order to allay the concerns raised by various States including Kerala where a significant population resides in and around the proposed buffer zones and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) In order to protect the rich biodiversity of Western Ghats, this Ministry has issued draft Notification on Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Area vide S.O. 3072 (E) on 06.07.2022 with an area of 56,825 square kilometre spreading over six States, namely, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, based on the report submitted by the High Level Working Group (HLWG) Chaired by Dr. Kasturirangan.

The States have persistently asked for modification in the Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA) included in the aforesaid draft notification. In order to address the issues raised by the State Governments, the Ministry constituted a Committee to re-examine the suggestions of the six State Governments in a holistic manner, keeping in view the conservation aspects of the disaster prone pristine ecosystem, and the rights, privileges, needs and developmental aspirations of the region. The concerns of the State Governments including Kerala and Karnataka are deliberated by the Committee and based on the recommendations of the said Committee; the draft notification is finalized.

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