

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1004**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

**Draft Notification on ESA**

1004. SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that many Gram Panchayat Authorities have expressed dissent over the exclusion of field level data submitted to the State Government for preparation of the final draft notification on Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA);
- (b) whether as per Gram Panchayat Authorities, the State Government is trying to challenge farmers and landholders in upland areas by issuing the latest draft notification carrying only outdated details from the Oommen V. Oommen Report;
- (c) whether the Gram Panchayat Authorities have claimed that no data were taken from the comprehensive report that they had filed four months ago after painstaking field level study done with the support of Revenue and Forest Department officials;
- (d) whether as per the Authorities the two maps recently published by the State Government were full of confusing facts and it would mislead people without answering their concerns; and
- (e) if so, whether the Government have sought any clarifications from the State Government on this issue?

**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 region, this Ministry has re-published the draft notification on Ecologically Sensitive Area of Western Ghats, vide S.O. 3060(E) dated 31.07.2024 with an area of 56,825 square kilometer spread across six States, namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, based on the report submitted by the High Level Working Group (HLWG).

The Government of Kerala has submitted revised proposal on 02.11.2024, requesting for declaring 8590.69 sq. km. area in 98 villages spread across 29 talukas in 12 districts as Ecologically Sensitive Area based on the verification of the suggestions received from the Local Self Government Department. The Ministry has received comments/objections/suggestions on the draft notification from stakeholders on the aforesaid draft notification dated 31.07.2024. Further, in order to address the issues raised by the stakeholders including the respective State Governments, while finalizing the draft notification,

the Ministry has constituted a Committee to examine the suggestions of the six State Governments in a holistic manner including issues related to the inclusion/exclusion of villages and keeping in mind the conservation aspects of the disaster prone pristine ecosystem, and the rights, privileges, needs and developmental aspirations of the region and to give its recommendations.

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