

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1058
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

Exclusion of Villages from ESA

1058. SHRI CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES:

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

- (a) the details of reasons cited by the State Government of Goa to justify exclusion of villages from the Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA);
- (b) the mandate of the Committee regarding retaining the villages mentioned in the notification or to exclude villages from those already notified;
- (c) whether the activities cited to exclude villages meant to allow the mining activity in these sensitive areas;
- (d) the details of the reasons Mangal Village in Quepem which meets all the criteria has not been identified as ESA; and
- (e) the details of the water bodies identified in the State of Goa under different categories, location-wise or KML/KMZ files along with the copy of the final report?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) The State Government of Goa, vide their proposal dated 30.09.2024 have proposed to declare 1247.72 sq. km. in 87 villages as part of Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area, by excluding 21 villages with an area of 226.16 sq. km. from the draft notification on Ecologically Sensitive Area of Western Ghats. The State Government has informed that the villages, which have been proposed for exclusion do not meet the criteria, laid down by the Committee, which has been constituted by the Government of Goa. Besides, the State Government has sought exclusion of villages to ensure livelihood, employment and economic development of the people. The Ministry has republished draft notification on Ecologically Sensitive Area of Western Ghats on 31st July 2024 regarding which claims/objections were to be submitted by the Stakeholders including State Governments by 29th September 2024.

(d) 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.

(e) As per the information provided by the State Government of Goa, 44 wetlands have been identified for notification under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, of which 15 have been notified so far.
