

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1035
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

Proposed Ecological Sensitive Areas in Goa

1035. SHRI CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES :

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

- (a) the details of names of the villages recommended by the State Government of Goa for exclusion from the draft notification published on 31 July 2024 pertaining to Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESA) including the villages which were recommended for exclusion citing reasons of Active Environment Clearance (mining) issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC);
- (b) the details regarding criteria for a village to be identified as ESA in western ghats;
- (c) the details of all the objections and suggestions received after the draft notification published on 31 July, 2024 with respect to the State of Goa; and
- (d) the details of all the reports including final report consisting of maps, water bodies, forest areas, etc. submitted by the said State Government to the Ministry including the minutes of meeting during the visit of the central team (MoEFCC) to Goa?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) In order to protect the fragile ecosystem as well as the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats regions and considering its ecological significance, this Ministry has re-published the draft notification vide S.O 3060 (E), dated 31.07.2024 with an area of 56,825 sq.km, spread across six States, namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, based on the report of the High Level Working Group, chaired by Dr. K. Kasturirangan. The State Government of Goa, in their latest proposal dated 10.01.2025 have proposed for declaration of 84 villages as Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Area in the State which excludes 24 villages from the draft notification on Ecologically Sensitive Area of Western Ghats published by this Ministry on 31st July, 2024.

In order to address the issues raised by the stakeholders including the respective State Governments on declaration of Western Ghats Ecologically sensitive Areas, the Ministry has constituted a Committee to examine the suggestions of the six State Governments and other stake holders, in a holistic manner including issues related to the inclusion / exclusion of villages and keeping in attention the conservation aspects of the disaster-prone pristine ecosystem, and the rights, privileges, needs and developmental aspirations of the region and to submit its final recommendations. The suggestions and objections received within the time prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 pursuant to the publication of the draft notification published on 31st July, 2024 have been furnished to the respective State Governments for their comments.
