

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1197
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

Notification on Ecologically Sensitive Areas

1197. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) the current status of the draft notification classifying parts of the Western Ghats in six States as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs);
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to address the concerns of the States, especially of Kerala, that this notification would subsume agricultural plantations, curtail the State's hydro- electricity plans and lead to a migration crisis given the State's high population density;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to get the States to arrive at a consensus;
- (d) whether the Government has fixed a timeline to complete the consulting process and release and implement the final notification; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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, the Ministry Environment, Forest and Climate Change has 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, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Kerala has submitted the revised proposal on 02.11.2024, requesting for declaring 8590.69 square kilometer 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.

Moreover, Ministry has also received comments/objections/suggestions on this draft notification from various stakeholders and the same have been forwarded to the State Government for providing comments/suggestions on the matter.

In order to address the issues raised by the respective State Governments, the Ministry has constituted a Committee to examine the suggestions of the six States in a holistic manner, keeping in view the conservation aspects of the ecosystem, and the rights, privileges, needs and developmental aspirations of the region. The concerns/suggestions of the State Governments, including Kerala are deliberated by the Committee with the respective State Governments on merit for finalization of the draft notification.
