

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2522
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

Implementation of Gadgil Report in Pune

2522. DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the recommendations of the Gadgil Report in Pune district, particularly in the ecologically sensitive Talukas of Junnar, Ambegaon and Maval;
- (b) if so, the details of specific actions taken to preserve biodiversity and protect wildlife species such as leopards and giant squirrels (Shekaru) in the Western Ghats region of Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted or commissioned any environmental impact assessments or studies related to ongoing and proposed infrastructure projects in these areas;
- (d) whether any measures have been adopted to ensure sustainable development while conserving the ecological balance in these Talukas and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for the delay or inaction in implementing the Gadgil Report's recommendations in Pune district?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had constituted a Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel headed by Prof. Madhav Gadgil for the identification of Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Areas. After the submission of Gadgil report another committee i.e. High-Level Working Group headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan had been constituted to review this report in a holistic manner. Subsequently, for the conservation and protection of the Western Ghats, the Ministry issued a draft notification on 10.03.2014, to notify Western Ghats Ecologically Sensitive Areas. Due to non-finalisation of preceding draft notifications, the Ministry has notified the latest draft notification *vide* S.O. 3060(E) dated 31.07.2024, covering an area of 56,825.7 square kilometers spreading across six States i.e. Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Ministry has received comments/objections/suggestions on this draft notification from various stakeholders and the same have been forwarded to the respective State Governments for providing comments/suggestions on the matter.

To protect the biodiversity including wildlife species in the Western Ghats region of Maharashtra, an area of 2,795.64 sq. km has been brought under protection through National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Eco-sensitive Zones. In order to address the issues raised by the respective State Governments on draft notification of Western Ghats Ecologically sensitive Areas, 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 Maharashtra are being deliberated by the Committee with the respective State Governments on merits for finalization of the draft notification.
