

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1210
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2025

Kasturirangan Report on ESA in Kerala

1210. ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved the final notification of the recommendations of the Kasturirangan Report demarcating the Eco-Sensitive Area (ESA) in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to consider the special circumstances, like High Density of population in Kerala before the final notification; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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 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, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra 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.

Moreover, Ministry has also received comments/objections/suggestions on the draft notification S.O. 3060 (E) dated 31.07.2024 from various stakeholders and the same were sent to the State Governments for providing Comments/Views on the matter.

The issues raised by the respective State Governments, including Kerala are examined by a Committee constituted by the Ministry in a holistic manner, keeping in view the conservation aspects of the disaster prone pristine ecosystem, and the rights, privileges, needs and developmental aspirations of the region.
