

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 05
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

Final Notification on the Western Ghats Panel Report

05. ADV. ADOOR PRAKASH;
ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE;

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government received suggestions/recommendations from the various State Governments including Kerala for the exclusion of villages demarcated as Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESA) on Western Ghats after the last iteration draft notification on the Western Ghats;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on the said suggestions/recommendations;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to accept the specific recommendation of Kerala to limit the ESA boundaries to approximately 8,711.98 sq.km across 98 villages thereby excluding all human settlements, farmlands and plantations;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any decision about the final notification on the Kasturirangan panel report relating to the conservation of Western Ghats; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the final notification is likely to be issued?

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 of 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 56,825.7 square kilometer spread across six States namely, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

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 finalizing its recommendations with respect to the draft notification. The recommendations are thereafter duly examined by the Ministry before finalizing the draft notification. Moreover, the Ministry has also received comments/objections/suggestions on the draft notification from various stakeholders and the same have been forwarded to the respective State Governments, including Kerala for providing comments/suggestions.
