

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 7**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

**Demarcation of Ecological Sensitive Areas**

\*7. SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Kerala has proposed to limit its Ecological Sensitive Area (ESA) to 8,711.98 sq.km. in 98 villages by confining the ESA to forests and protected areas including wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and tiger reserves of the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said State has also indicated that it may come up with a final proposal later;
- (d) whether any such final proposal has been received from the State; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA'S (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 7 DUE FOR REPLY ON 25.11.2024 REGARDING "DEMARCATIION OF ECOLOGICAL SENSITIVE AREAS" BY SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:**

(a) to (e) 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.

In order to address the issues raised by the stakeholders including the respective State Governments while finalizing the draft notification, the Ministry has constituted a Committee to examine the suggestions of the six State Governments 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 and to give its recommendations.

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