

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2005
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE IN MUMBAI
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to establish Matheran Eco Sensitive Zone (MESZ) in Navi Mumbai;
- (b) if so, the details of progress made in this regard so far;
- (c) the details of suggestions given by Peoples` Representatives, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the common people along with their reaction to the notification issued by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government have studied the suggestions in depth;
- (e) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to make certain changes in the said project keeping in view the aforesaid suggestions; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b): The Government had issued a draft notification vide S.O.167 (E) dated 6th February, 2002 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of declaring Matheran and surrounding areas as an Eco-Sensitive Zone.

(c) & (d), : A large number of suggestions and objections have been received from the public, peoples representatives, NGOs, Maharashtra Government and other stakeholders. These objections and suggestions covered a wide spectrum of issues relating to, inter-alia, geographical area to be notified as eco-sensitive zone, zonation and type of activities to be permitted and regulated within each zone, etc. The Government, after a preliminary examination of the suggestions and objections, referred the matter to the Expert Committee constituted for the purpose to further examine the issues and make recommendations. The Expert Committee examined the suggestions and objections received and held discussions with the representatives of the Maharashtra Government, NGOs and peoples representatives. The Committee also visited Matheran and its surroundings on 11th & 12 November 2002.

(e) & (f) Based on the suggestions and objections received on the draft notification and the recommendations of the Expert Committee, a view would be taken by the Government on finalising the notification.