

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1884  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008  
ECO SENSITIVE ZONES  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether Indian Board of Wildlife (IBWL) decided to declare 10 km. area around National Parks and Sanctuaries into eco-sensitive zone;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the name of the States which have not taken any action in this regard and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether IBWL has diluted its earlier decision and asked the States to decide themselves in this regard; and
- (e) the response of the State Governments thereto?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (d) The eco sensitive zones need to be declared in order to provide better sanctity to protected areas; as an additional tool to strengthen the buffers and corridors around the Protected Area network; and to check the negative impact of industrialization and unplanned development in and around Protected Areas. In this background the Indian Board for Wildlife in its XXI meeting held on 21st January 2002 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister had adopted a 'Wildlife Conservation Strategy-2002' in which one of the action point envisaged to notify lands falling within 10 km. of the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries as Eco-fragile zones under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

However, some of the State Governments like Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Goa, etc raised concern over applicability of the 10 Kms range from the Protected Area boundary and informed that most of the human habitation and other areas including important cities in these States would come under the purview of eco-sensitive zone and will adversely affect the development. Considering the constraints communicated by the states, the proposal was re-examined by the National Board for Wildlife in its 2nd meeting held on 17th March 2005 and it was decided that the delineation of eco-sensitive zones would have to be site specific and relate to regulation, rather than prohibition, of specific activities. The decision was communicated to all the State Governments for compliance.

(e) Only the States of Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Sikkim, Chattisgarh and Goa have so far submitted the proposal for declaration of eco-sensitive zones around Protected Areas. The Ministry of Environment & Forests have time and again requested the State Governments to declare areas as Eco-sensitive zones, as per the decision of the National Board for Wildlife. It is also mentioned that a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 460/2004 has been filed by the Goa Foundation before Hon'ble Supreme Court. Hon'ble Court vide their interim order dated 4th December 2006 has also directed the State Governments for declaring eco-sensitive zones at the earliest around Protected Areas.