

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4612
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
INDIRA GANDHI BIO-DIVERSITY CONSERVATION CENTRE
Kurup Shri N.Peethambara

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

- (a) whether, during the celebration of silver jubilee in silent valley in Kerala, it was agreed to set up an Indira Gandhi Biodiversity Conservation Centre;
- (b) if so, the progress made so far in setting up this centre; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to create a buffer zone in the Silent Valley National Park?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) The idea of setting up of Indira Gandhi Biodiversity Conservation Centre was accepted `in principle` during the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Silent Valley National Park in a public function in Kerala. Accordingly, a proposal to this effect has been received in the Ministry.

(c) An area of 148 sq. km. around the Silent Valley National Park has already been declared as buffer zone in 2007.