

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:640

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012

WESTERN GHATS ECOLOGY EXPERT PANEL

Abdulrahman Shri ;Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Thomas Shri P. T.;Venugopal Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) has submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the findings thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received comments from the States and decided to set up a committee to review the report of the WGEEP in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests has submitted its report to the Ministry. The major findings of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel report inter alia include, (i) demarcation of ecologically sensitive zones in Western Ghats, (ii) measures for management of these ecologically sensitive zones, (iii) measures for preservation, conservation and rejuvenation of this environmentally sensitive and ecologically significant region and (iv) modalities for the establishment Western Ghats Ecology Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) (d) & (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received comments on the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel report from three states viz. Kerala, Goa and Maharashtra. The Ministry is considering to constitute a High Level Committee to further examine the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel report.