

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:88
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013
ECO SENSITIVE ZONES AROUND SANCTUARIES
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo

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

- (a) whether the Government has asked the States to notify the ecologically sensitive zones around the national parks and sanctuaries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the States in this regard;
- (c) whether a number of States have not identified eco-sensitive zone around the national parks and sanctuaries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the States; 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)to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) AND (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 88 REGARDING 'ECO SENSITIVE ZONES AROUND SANCTUARIES' BY SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD AND SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN DUE FOR REPLY ON 04.03.2013.

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The decision of declaration of eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries was taken by the Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) on 21st January 2002. Subsequently, the National Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 17th March 2005 decided that delineation of eco-sensitive zone should have to be site specific. State Governments were requested vide letter dated 27th May 2005 to submit site specific proposals. Hon'ble Supreme Court has also vide order dated 4th December 2006 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 460/2004 directed the State Governments to send the proposals to the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Keeping in view the slow response in submission of proposals by the State Governments, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had issued guidelines on 9th February 2011 indicating the procedure to be adopted for preparation of proposals. Till November 2012, twenty eight proposals had been received. To speed up the process, the Ministry of Environment and Forests vide letter dated 11th December 2012, once again requested the States/Union Territory Governments to submit site specific proposals giving a time limit of two months up to 15th February 2013.

The State Governments have been taking appropriate measures for complying with the decision of the Ministry as well as the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, some State Governments have also sought extension of time for submission of proposals.

(c), (d) and (e) Draft notification for declaration of eco-sensitive zones have been received only from 17 States/Union Territories. The details of States/Union Territories Governments regarding submission of proposals for eco-sensitive zones are at Annexure-1.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests vide letter dated 18th February 2013 has granted further extension of time till 15th May 2013 for submission of proposals for declaration of eco-sensitive zones.