

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4507
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
REPORT ON WESTERN GHAT
Ajay Kumar SHRI

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

- (a) whether the Government has appointed any commission to review the findings of Prof. Madhav Gadgil Commission report on Western Ghats in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said commission has submitted its report; and
- (d) if so, the major findings thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry had constituted a High Level Working Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. K Kasturirangan, Member, Planning Commission vide office order dated 17.8.2012 to inter alia examine the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Report in a holistic and multidisciplinary fashion keeping in view the comments received from the concerned State Governments/Central Ministries/Stakeholders and other related important aspects such as preservation of precious biodiversity, needs and aspirations of the local and indigenous people, sustainable development and environmental integrity of the region, climate change and constitutional implications of centre-state relations and to recommend further course of action to the Government with respect to the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Report. The tenure of the Working Group has expired on 15th April 2013.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Ministry has received the report and the same has been uploaded on the Ministry's website for wider dissemination and use. The major findings of the High Level Working Group inter alia include:(i) distinguishing cultural and the natural landscape of the Western Ghats region, (ii) protecting 90 per cent of the 'natural landscape' as ecological sensitive area in Western Ghats region, (iii) prohibiting activities with maximum interventionist and destructive impact on the environment, (iv) incentivizing green growth in the Western Ghats, and (v) setting up a Decision Support and Monitoring Centre for Western Ghats.