

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:545
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013
ECO SENSITIVE ZONES AROUND SANCTUARIES
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any directions to the States on demarcating ecologically sensitive zones around the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in their States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has set any deadline for the States in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the number of States which have notified the eco-sensitive zones around the said areas; and
- (e) whether the Government has extended the said deadline for the States in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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 545 REGARDING 'ECO SENSITIVE ZONES AROUND SANCTUARIES' BY SHRI L. RAJA GOPAL DUE FOR REPLY ON 06.05.2013.

(a), (b), (c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of the decision taken by the Indian Board for Wildlife (IBWL) on 21st January 2002 and subsequent decision of the National Board for Wildlife taken in its meeting held on 17th March 2005 the State Governments were requested vide letter dated 27th May 2005 to submit site specific proposals for declaration of Eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries. 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.

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. As Eco-sensitive zones are to be notified under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the State Governments are required to submit draft notification, which after due scrutiny by the Ministry of Environment and Forests is notified. By 15th February 2013, the Ministry had received 181 proposals from 19 States for notification of Eco-sensitive zones. As on date, Eco-sensitive zones around 7 National Parks/Sanctuaries have been notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The list of Eco-sensitive zones notified is at Annexure.

(e) In response to the letter of the Ministry dated 11th December 2012, a large number of proposals were received; however, several State Governments had requested for extension of time as formulation of the proposal was in progress. Considering their request, 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.