

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:108

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015

NOTIFICATION AS ECO SENSITIVE ZONES

Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to notify over 60 sanctuaries and national parks as eco- sensitive zones;
- (b) if so, the details of such sanctuaries and national parks, State-wise along with the criteria/reasons for declaring them as eco-sensitive zones;
- (c) whether the Government also proposes to set up monitoring Committees in these zones and if so, the present status thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the negative impact of industrialization and unplanned development in and around protected areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 108 REGARDING 'NOTIFICATION AS ECO-SENSITIVE ZONES' BY SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHAN- KARRAO AND SHRI SATAV RAJEEV DUE FOR REPLY ON 03.03.2015.

(a) and (b) In accordance with the recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 17th March 2005, it has been proposed to identify areas important for conservation outside National Parks/Sanctuaries as Eco-Sensitive Zones under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Accordingly, all States have been requested to submit the proposals. The criteria for identification of Eco-Sensitive Zones, as agreed by National Board for Wildlife are as follows:

- i. Complete protection to endemic species in its entire range;
- ii. Development processes not to reduce, damage or destroy the habitat of critically endangered or any other threatened species;
- iii. Protection to biological corridors;
- iv. Protection to highly complex and diversified ecosystems susceptible to irreversible damage, like coral reefs, mangroves, etc.;
- v. Sites associated with reproductive, breeding or nurturing behaviour of rare and threatened species;
- vi. Existence of pristine forests;
- vii. Steep slopes (more than 60°)

Accordingly, the National Park/Sanctuary wise details of eco-sensitive zones notified so far, is given at Annexure.

(c) A notification of an Eco-Sensitive Zone provides for setting up of a Monitoring Committee for monitoring compliance of the provisions of the notification and scrutinizing of the proposed activities listed as regulated in the Eco-Sensitive Zone. The Committees are to be set up in the States.

(d) The important steps taken by the Government to check the negative impact of industrialization and unplanned development in and around protected areas include:

- i. Under the Environmental Clearance notification, activities covered under General conditions, if located within 5 kms of National Parks/Sanctuaries are appraised by National Environmental Impact Assessment Authorities and not the State Authorities.
- ii. As on date, mining activity within 1 kms from the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries is prohibited.
- iii. The Eco-Sensitive Zone notified in the vicinity of National Parks/Sanctuaries provide for prohibition of certain activities causing negative impacts to the ecology, like mining, establishment of polluting industries, etc., and regulation of certain activities by appraisal by the Monitoring Committee before decision of the competent authority.