

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1154
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015
ECOLOGICAL FRAGILE LANDS ACT
Patil Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao

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

- (a) whether expert panel has urged some States to repeal the Ecologically Fragile Lands Act; and
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The Central Government had constituted the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) on 4th March, 2010 to inter alia demarcate ecologically sensitive area in Western Ghats. The WGEEP had submitted its report on 30th August 2011. Subsequently, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted a High Level Working Group (HLWG) under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, the then Member (Science), of the erstwhile Planning Commission on 17th August, 2012 to inter alia examine the WGEEP Report in a holistic and multidisciplinary fashion keeping in view the comments received from the concerned State Governments / Central Ministries / Stakeholders. The HLWG submitted its report on 15th April 2013. The major recommendations of the HLWG inter alia include (i) definition and delimitation of Western Ghats Region and (ii) identification of eco-sensitive area in the Western Ghats. Neither the WGEEP nor the HLWG has provided any recommendation in their reports regarding the stated Ecologically Fragile Lands Act.

(b): Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.