

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:852
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
BIO-DIVERSITY OF WESTERN GHATS
Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan for conservation of bio-diversity of the Western Ghats region in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, along with the areas particularly of Maharashtra which are proposed to be included under the said plan;
- (c) the criteria adopted for inclusion of these areas; and
- (d) the total amount proposed to be allocated by the Government for the above propose?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): No, Sir. The Government has not drawn up any specific action plan for the conservation of bio-diversity of the Western Ghats. However, the recommendations submitted by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) set up by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change under the chairmanship of Prof Madhav Gadgil for demarcation of ecologically sensitive zones in Western Ghats and measures for management of these ecologically sensitive zones, were examined by a High Level Working Group (HLWG) under the chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, the then Member (Science), Planning Commission. The Ministry has issued a draft notification declaring Ecologically Sensitive Area in Western Ghats under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in the Gazette of India vide S.O. No 733 (E) dated 10th March 2014 inviting comments. The Ministry has so far also notified six ecologically sensitive zones in the Western Ghats, out of which three fall within the State of Maharashtra. These are:

- (i) Mahabaleshwar Panchgani, Maharashtra
- (ii) Matheran, Maharashtra,
- (iii) Dahanu Taluka, Maharashtra,