

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:481
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014
ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION OF SAHYADRI
Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal

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

- (a) the steps taken and the funds allocated for the conservation of Sahyadri Ecology;
- (b) whether Government has launched or proposes to launch National Mission on Sahyadri;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the proposal received for conservation of Sahyadri Ecology; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a): The steps taken by the Government for the conservation of Sahyadri ecology inter alia include the following:

(i) In order to provide immediate protection to the Western Ghats and to maintain its environmental integrity, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change issued Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 13th November 2013. As per the Directions, five categories of new and/or expansion projects/activities which have maximum interventionist and damaging impacts on ecosystems shall not be considered for granting Environmental Clearance in the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA), as identified by the High Level Working Group, in the Western Ghats.

(ii) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has notified the following six ecologically sensitive zones in the Western Ghats to regulate certain identified developmental activities unless specifically prohibited in the respective notifications:

Eco-sensitive Zone around Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat

Eco-sensitive Zone around Vansda Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat

Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani, Maharashtra

Matheran, Maharashtra,

Dahanu Taluka, Maharashtra,

Eco-sensitive Zone around Bandipur National Park, Karnataka

(iii) The Western Ghats has been recognized as a World Natural Heritage site by UNESCO. A Western Ghats Natural Heritage Management Committee (WGNHMC) is already functional under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India to deal with coordination and integration issues related to World Heritage Sites in Western Ghats. All 39 components and 7 sub-clusters of Western Ghats World Heritage Sites are managed under specific management/working plans duly approved by State/Central Governments.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change provides funds under various Plan Schemes/Programmes, which inter alia include Biosphere Reserves, Biodiversity Programmes, Protected Area Network, conservation of aquatic ecosystems programme, for protection of environment and conservation of natural resources across the country including in Sahyadri.

(b): No, Sir.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): No such proposal has been received by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

(e): Does not arise.