

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:529

ANSWERED ON:26.11.2014

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE ZONE

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether Environmentally Sensitive Areas(ESAs) are often being encroached/invaded particularly by miners in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether National Green Tribunal has asked the Union Government to notify ESA;
- (d) if so, whether most of the State Governments were not willing to notify 10 km as suggested by the SC, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Union Government has decided that newly formed wildlife committee will examine the projects in 650 national parks, sanctuaries and the Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESAs) around them and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)and (b) There are no reports in this Ministry indicating encroachment of notified Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESAs) around National Parks and Sanctuaries by miners, etc..

(c) No directions of National Green Tribunal have been received in Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change specifically for notification of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries in the country.

(d) In response to the decision of the Indian Board for Wildlife meeting held on 21st January 2002, the States of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Goa had raised concern over applicability of the 10 Kms range from the Protected Area boundary. The matter was re-considered in the 2nd meeting of the National Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 17th March 2005, wherein it was decided that "Delineation of Eco-Sensitive Zones would have to be site specific and relate to regulation, rather than prohibition of specific activities. State Governments will have to be consulted in this regard and concurrence obtained. This being an area of potential conflict with local communities, no enhancement of area should be done arbitrarily".

(e) The Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife considers proposals falling within National Parks and Sanctuaries in accordance with the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. It also considers the proposals requiring environment clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, if located within the notified ecologically sensitive areas around National Parks/Sanctuaries, or 10 kms.