

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3705

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE

Arunmozhiathan Shri A.

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to set up a new environmental governance architecture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to declare the protected areas and forests with over seventy percent tree coverage as 'No Go' areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, former Cabinet Secretary to Govt. of India to review various Acts administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, namely (i) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, (ii) Forests Conservation Act, 1980, (iii) Indian Forests Act, 1927, (iv) Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, (v) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and (vi) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Based on the comments received from Central Government, State Governments, Civil Societies etc. the report has been finalised and submitted to the Government and is now in the public domain.

(c) & (d) The High Level Committee has recommended identification of 'no go' areas, which are in forest areas or inviolate zones – primarily with the criteria of over 70% canopy cover and 'Protected Areas' which should not be disturbed except in exceptional circumstances, and that too only with the prior approval of the Union Cabinet.