

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4956

ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014

ECO SENSITIVE AREA

Diwakar Shri Rajesh Kumar

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

- (a) the details of the criteria adopted for declaring any area as eco sensitive;
- (b) whether the livelihood of local people is affected consequent upon declaring any area as eco sensitive and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the role of local people in conserving the eco sensitive areas; and
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to ensure the participation of local people regarding conservation of environment and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The National Environment Policy, 2006, defines Eco-sensitive Zones as areas/zones with identified environmental resources having incomparable values which require special attention for their conservation. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change notifies Eco-sensitive Zones' under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, wherein, inter alia certain identified projects/activities are regulated/ prohibited as the case may be. The Rule 5(1) of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, stipulates, inter alia the following factors which may be taken into consideration while prohibiting or restricting the location of industries and the carrying on of processes and operations: (i) maximum allowable limits of concentration of pollutants for an area, (ii) the topographic and climatic features of an area, (iii) the biological diversity of an area, (iv) proximity to Protected Areas.

(b) to (d): The activities in the Eco sensitive Zone are of a regulatory in nature rather than prohibitory unless or otherwise so specified, therefore, the normal livelihood and day to day activities of local people are not affected consequent to the declaration of an area as an Eco-sensitive. The main objective of Eco-sensitive zones is to conserve and enhance the critical environmental resources including biodiversity while providing adequate opportunities for livelihood security of the local people. To achieve this, Eco-sensitive Zone Notifications provide for preparation of Zonal Master Plans for these Zones with adequate participation of the local communities. Further, the regulation of development in the Eco-sensitive Zone is undertaken to maintain the carrying capacity of the area and to ensure sustainable development taking into consideration the needs and aspirations of the local people.