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Title: Need to review the recommendations of Dr. Kasturirangan Report on Western Ghats.

SHRI K. JAYAPRAKASH HEGDE (UDUPI-CHICKMAGALUR): The attempt at implementation of the Kasturirangan Report has resulted in adverse reactions across the various concerned states. There have been cases of violent outbursts by the people who have been living in the Western Ghats. The recommendations in the Report have drawn criticism from various corners of society. In this context it is pertinent to re-examine the proposals and refine the policy that must be implemented for the protection and conservation of the Western Ghats, not compromising on the rights of the people nor destroying the rich biodiversity of the region and endanger its pristine environment.

Highlighting one of the main problems of the recommendations is the disregard for the local community and tribal population. Establishment of no man zones without adequate verification and survey of the land has resulted in homes and livelihoods of many people getting affected. The striking contrast in the Kasturirangan Report vis-a-vis recommendations of Madhav Gadgil led Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel has drawn strong criticism and requires examination. Any attempt to implement the Kasturirangan Report in toto without considerations of the local people and their needs should not take place and I urge the Government to consider adopting the recommendations only after tailoring the policy to suit the needs of the people living in this region. The local people should also be consulted in order to protect and preserve the rich biodiversity of the Western Ghats.