

faecal dropping were sent to National Institute of High Security Animal Disease, Bhopal for medical examination which were found negative for Avian Influenza HPAI (H5N1) bird flu. While the samples were sent for examination, the State Government of Haryana closed the Park for the visitors and surveillance was increased in the Park and vicinity for observing the mortality, if any, in the area.

Recommendations of Gadgil Committee Report

1627. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state

(a) whether the recommendations of the Report of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (Gadgil Committee Report) submitted to the Ministry in 2011 have been accepted by Government; and

(b) if so, the details and specifications of the recommendations which have been accepted and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) and (b) The Government had constituted the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) under the Chairmanship of Prof. Madhav Gadgil on 4th March 2010. The major recommendations given in the WGEEP report, submitted to this Ministry in August 2011, *inter alia* relate to demarcation of ecologically sensitive zones in Western Ghats and measures for management of these ecologically sensitive zones. The Ministry undertook the consultation process by seeking comments/views of the concerned State Governments/Central Ministries and also inviting comments of other stakeholders on the WGEEP report.

Subsequently, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had constituted a High Level Working Group (HLWG) under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, the then Member (Science) of the erstwhile Planning Commission on 17th August, 2012 to *inter alia* examine the WGEEP Report in a holistic and multidisciplinary fashion keeping in view the comments received from the concerned State Governments/Central Ministries/Stakeholders. The HLWG submitted its report on 15th April 2013. The Ministry is examining and further processing the High Level Working Group report which is a subsequent report to the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel report.