

Implementation of Kasturirangan report

2284. SHRI K. J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of implementation of Kasturirangan report regarding Western Ghats;
- (b) whether there is a time-frame by which it would be implemented; and
- (c) whether Government will take into consideration the realities on the ground while implementing the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) Based on the Kasturirangan report (High Level Working Group) and with a view to issue final notification to declare Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) of the Western Ghats, this Ministry has issued draft Notification vide S.O. 733 (E) on 10.02.2014, with an eco-sensitive area of 56,825 square kilometres spreading over six States, namely, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

With persisting demand from the States to reduce/alter the ESA area from the recommendations of the Kasturirangan report, the final Notification could not be issued so far. To continue with the Notification process, the Ministry has republished the draft Notification thrice, vide S.O. 2435 (E) dated 04.09.2015; S.O. 667 (E) dated 27.02.2017 and S.O. 5135 (E) dated 03.10.2018 with same eco-sensitive area. After issuing the latest draft Notification, this Ministry has held stakeholder consultations. The validity of draft notification is 30th March, 2020.

Death of migratory birds

2285. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 18,000 migratory birds died recently at Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the mysterious deaths of thousands of birds;