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Title : Legislations on Ecologically Sensitive Zones-Laid

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): The recent order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has declared that minimum distance of one kilometer of land shall be included as Ecologically Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the National Parks, Wild life and Bird Sanctuaries in the country. If this order is implemented it will adversely affect the normal life of common man and farmers in the State of Kerala who are settled within the above limit of land since several decades. Kerala has 30% of its total land area as forest and protected sanctuaries. Kerala is one of the thickly populated States in the country. Therefore, availability of land for development is very difficult in the State. In such a situation, the present order will definitely create adverse impact in the State. People have already started agitations and are requesting for necessary legislations to be initiated. Therefore, I request the Government to take urgent steps to bring new legislation on Ecologically Sensitive Zones so that the people residing near forests over decades will not affected.