

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Preliminary Satellite Survey Report on human habitations in buffer zones in Kerala

SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN (VADAKARA): Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) areas are notified in India around Protected forests, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of 'shock absorbers' to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.

Recently, Preliminary Satellite Survey Report prepared by the Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environment Centre has been released to ascertain the buffer zones in the State. Serious concerns have been raised over the preliminary satellite survey report on human habitations in eco-sensitive zones or buffer zones.

The report's lack of clarity has led to widespread complaints. In my Parliamentary Constituency, Vadakara, there is a vast area adjacent to the protected forests. Villages like Chakkittapara, Koothali, Changaroth, Maruthongra etc. are located in the buffer zone of the Malabar Protected Forest. The residents of these areas are confused due to the lack of clarity in the Preliminary Satellite Survey Report. The report says that there are 49,330 buildings in the buffer zone across the State. It is factually incorrect. There are more than two lakh buildings in the buffer zone. Many of survey numbers have wrongly been given and locations have not been clearly indicated.

Hence, I request that field survey in the above context should be done properly.