

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4547  
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005  
ECOLOGICALLY FRAGILE AREAS  
Karunakaran Shri P.

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Union Government is aware that many ecologically fragile areas in the country are either under illegal possession or under private ownership;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps the Union Government proposes to take for their protection;
- (c) whether the Union Government has given its consent to the Kerala Forest (Vesting and Management of Ecologically Fragile Lands) Bill, 2002;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

- (a) & (b) There are ecologically fragile areas in many states under private ownership. However, legal framework is in place for regulating development of ecologically fragile areas. Central government is empowered to declare various areas ecologically fragile/eco-sensitive under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The Kerala Forest (Vesting and Management of Ecologically Fragile Lands) Bill, 2002 provides for the vesting in the Government of ecologically fragile lands in the State of Kerala and for the management of such lands with a view to maintaining ecological balance and conserving the biodiversity.
- (e) Does not arise.