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Title: Need to review the decision regarding implementation of Madhav Gadgil Committee recommendations in respect of Western Ghat in Kerala.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): Sir, I take this opportunity share the serious concerns over the recommendations of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP). Most of the recommendations of the Panel chaired by Prof. Madhav Gadgil have adverse impact on the development of six States in the country. Out of these, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra will be the most affected.

The report submitted by the Panel is against the infrastructure development projects such as railways, roads, electricity, etc. Most of the recommendations of the Report are impractical. For instance, it proposes to decommission dams and thermal projects that have crossed their viable life span of 30-50 years. If it is implemented, water supply and power generation in the aforesaid States will be adversely affected.

The guidelines to classify different zones according to their environmental and ecological sensitivity are not in accordance with the ground realities of our country. If the recommendations of the Madhav Gadgil Committee Report are implemented, then the country will see massive displacement of people from their habitats and it is also totally against the interests of the farmers of Western Ghat region.

Therefore, I request the Government to take a judicious decision on the report submitted by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel under the chairmanship of Prof. Madhav Gadgil.