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Title: Need to withdraw the notification regarding Eco-sensitive Zone in Karnataka.

SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA): I would like to draw the attention of the Union government towards an important issue regarding withdrawal of Notification for implementation of the Kasturirangan Committee Report in Karnataka. People of Karnataka are opposed to notification of Eco-Sensitive Zone since beginning itself. The state government has sent its objection to the Union Government not to implement the Kasturirangan report. According to the notification, about 20,668 square kilometers area in the state including 1,576 villages in 10 districts were declared eco-sensitive zone. If the notification is implemented, it would not permit development works in the notified area. It will lead to a ban on construction of schools, hospitals and roads in these villages. It would also prevent granting of land rights to farmers for cultivation. Further this would also affect the existing plantations like coffee and tea. Major economic activities of the people in the said districts are dependent on Tea and coffee plantations. This notification would affect the people of the region to a great extent, whereas the Centre has dropped many villages from eco-sensitive zone in Kerala after the neighbouring state submitted its objections. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to withdraw the notification to declare Eco Sensitive Zone in Karnataka.