

>

Title: Need to review the reports of Prof. Madhav Gadgil and Dr. K. Kasturirangan on Western Ghats to safeguard the interests of Kerala.

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (WAYANAD): It has been learnt from various media reports that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is set to take a decision with regard to reports prepared by the Madhav Gadgil and Kasturirangan panels on the Western Ghats at the earliest. If these reports are true, I would suggest that unilateral mode of decision-making on an issue affecting thousands of farmers especially the poor and marginal farmers and their livelihood is against the participatory nature of democracy itself. I represent Wayanad Lok Sabha Constituency which holds a significant landmass coming under the Western Ghats and I stand for upholding the interests of the farmers and the people residing in the high range area who are under constant fear of losing their livelihood due to the impending implementation of Madhav Gadgil and Kasturirangan reports by the Government. It is a common knowledge that Madhav Gadgil report was rejected by the MPs and MLAs of Kerala due to its anti-agrarian and anti-people approach and the UPA Government then constituted the Kasturirangan committee. The Kerala Government through an expert committee chaired by Dr.Oommen V. Oommen cited the state's specific concerns on various issues including the demarcation of ESA. I would hence suggest that Kerala's demands are to be treated as a special case owing to its demographic differences and decisions should be taken keeping in view Kerala's specific case. Keeping in view the fears and anxieties of the people of Western Ghats, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to refrain from taking any hasty decision.