

## **Sixteenth Lok Sabha**

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**Title: Regarding final notification for ecologically sensitive areas of Western Ghats.**

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): As per 13 November 2013 directions, Government had notified 4156 villages across the Western Ghats as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA). Then on 10 March 2014, Government issued draft notification inviting comments from stakeholders and reissued the draft thrice on 4th September 2015, 28th February 2017 and 4th October, 2018 respectively. Even though, the Government is issuing draft notification, the delay in issuing final notification is creating lots of difficulties to the public in the notified ESAs. Several development projects including construction of medical college have been delayed due to non-issuance of Environmental Clearance. Hence, I urge upon the Government to issue final notification accepting the recommendation made by State of Kerala confining the ESA to reserve forest to an extent of 8656 Sq. Kms. at the earliest.