

Calling attention notice tabled by **TABLED BY SHRI. PRASAD S. GAONKAR, M.L.A., SANGUEM CONSTITUENCY** to reply on 05/08/2019.

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**FEAR AND ANXIETY IN THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE OF SANGUEM AND QUEPEM TALUKA REGARDING DECLARATION BY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF GOA VIDE NOTIFICATION NO.S.O.555 (E) HAS NOTIFIED AND DECLARED VILLAGES OF SANGUEM AND QUEPEM TALUKA UNDER ECO-SENSITIVE ZONE. VILLAGES ARE PATIEM, UGUEM, TUDOU, XELPEM, SALAULI, POTREM, BATI, VILIENA, CUMBARI, CURDI, NAIQUINIM, DONGAR, PORTEM, SIGONEM, VICUNDREM AND CAZUR.**

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Reply by Hon'ble Chief Minister/Minister for Environment

Speaker Sir, the Central Government has issued a draft Notification for inclusion of 99 villages in the Eco-Sensitive Areas of Western Ghats.

The State Government has perused the same and issued a letter to the MoEF&CC to include only 69 villages, which form part of notified Wild Life Sanctuaries i.e. Madei Wild Life Sanctuary, Bondla Wild Life Sanctuary, Bhagwan Mahaveer Wild Life Sanctuary, Netravali Wild Life Sanctuary, Cotigao Wild Life Sanctuary to be included in Eco-Sensitive Zones of Western Ghats.

The Villages of Patiem , Tudou, Potrem, Salauli, Naiquinim, Curdi, Cumbari, Viliena, Bati, Sigonem, Portem, Dongar forms part of Netravali Wild Life Sanctuary

Uguem village forms part of Bhagwan Mahaveer Wild Life Sanctuary.

These villages mentioned are already part of Eco-sensitive areas being part of Wild Life Sanctuary.

As per the notification there will be no displacement or dislocation of the local people living in habitation within the ESA's demarcated in the Western Ghats and practising of agriculture and plantation activity shall also not be affected due to the provisions contained in the draft Notification.

So also there is no restriction or repair on extension or renovation of existing residential houses in ESA as per prevailing laws and regulations. Any person interested to file objections may forward the same to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and there is no provision of public hearing and / or consultations in the said draft Notification published on 03/10/2018.

As per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1), clause (v) and clause (xiv) of subsection (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) read with sub-rule(3) of rule 5 of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, New Delhi notified the Eco sensitive zone around Netravali Wild Life Sanctuary vide its Notification dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015 wherein an area with an extent of one kilometre around Netravali WLS was declared as Eco - Sensitive Zone vide. This was done following due process of law including inviting feedback of local people after putting draft notification in public domain. The Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary extending over extending over an area of 211.05 Sq. Km, is an essential part of the Western Ghats, which is rich in biodiversity.

There are Prohibited, Regulated and Promoted activities in the Eco - sensitive Zones which are governed under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 mentioned in the Eco - Sensitive Zone Notification.

The list of villages mentioned in the calling attention fall partially within the Eco - sensitive Zones of the Netravali wildlife Sanctuary.

In view of above, it is to state that there shall not be any fear or anxiety to be taken by the people of nearby village area as list of prohibited activities are those activities which are detrimental to wildlife & its habitat and are necessary for environmental health of the region. Majority of the activities are either permitted or regulated. The prohibited activities include commercial mining, stone quarrying, setting up of new saw mill, setting up of industries causing water, air, soil and noise pollution, use of plastic carry bags etc.