

Kasturirangan report: Environment ministry asks states to submit responses on Western Ghats by June 15

By Anubhuti Vishnoi, ET Bureau | 6 May, 2015, 02:19AM IST

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NEW DELHI: The environment ministry has asked stakeholder states to submit their final responses to the K Kasturirangan committee report on the Western Ghats by June 15, telling them that no more extensions will be allowed. The Prakash Javadekar-led ministry intends to start deciding on cases after this deadline.



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Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, TN and Kerala are the stakeholder states that stand to be affected by the Kasturirangan report. Soon after taking over, Javadekar had in June 2014 allowed them more time, asking them to conduct "groundtruthing" exercises with respect to the Kasturirangan and Madhav Gadgil reports, which he said were based on satellite imagery. Nearly a

year later, states have been seeking repeated extensions, with the last deadline having passed on April 16. To ET, Javadekar categorically said no more extensions will be allowed.

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"Western Ghats is work in progress... After much reluctance... three governments asked me for extension up to 15th June. Among them were Karnataka and Maharashtra. So I have given and I have said it on my file that this is the last extension--beyond that no," he said. "And we will definitely and immediately start deciding the cases. Even I am ready to discuss state by state... but before that I want to convene a meeting of the seven states, take review of where there the ground-truthing exercise has been and then we will go ahead state by state."

The high-level working group headed by Kasturirangan had in its 2013 report recommended to the environment ministry that that 37% of the Western Ghats area