



Respected Narendrabai Damodardas Modi Ji,

IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT SUBMITTED BY HIGH LEVEL WORKING GROUP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF DR. KASTURIRANGAN WITH REGARD TO CONSERVATION OF WESTERN GHATS.

Respected Sir,

1. The Western Ghats is an important Ecological area in the country. It is an important geological landform spread along the west coast of India. The Western Ghats extends over 1500 Kilometers and travels through six States – Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujrat and Kerala. It has an area of around 1,62,000 Sq-Kms and possesses India's pristine biological resources. It is home for a variety of rare flora and fauna and has an important role in the ecological balance.
2. The Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted a Committee headed by Prof. Madhav Gadgil to study about preservation of ecology, environment development and sustaining the ecosystem of Western Ghats, keeping in view of the rich and unique biodiversity. Prof Madhav Gadgil submitted a report to the Government of India on 31 Aug 2011. **This report was vehemently opposed by all the State Governments and stakeholders due to its anti-agrarian stance. The Ministry then constituted the High Level Working Group on August 17th, 2012 to examine the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report in a holistic fashion keeping in view comments received from the State Govts concerned, Central Ministries and Stake holders.** The HLWG submitted its report on April 15, 2013 and the Ministry accepted it and issued directions under section 5 of the Environment Protection Act on 13th Nov 2013.
3. The Kasturirangan report has declared 37% of the total land under Western Ghats i.e., 59,940 Sq Kms of area as **Ecologically Sensitive Area** (Gujrat 449 Sq. Km. Karnataka 20668 Sq. Km., Maharashtra 17390-Sq. Km., Goa 1461 Sq. Km., Tamilnadu 6914 Sq. Km. and Kerala 13,108 Sq. Km.). In these areas it has suggested for banning of five activities like, mining activities, ban on new thermal power plants, big constructions and all " Red " Category industries.