



4. The release of this report has resulted in lot of hue and cry and protests in the Western Ghat region. Major objections have emerged on certain recommendations of the report. **The report has some glaring anomalies leading to the protests such as :-**

- (a) **The entire survey to identify Ecologically Sensitive Area has been done on the basis of Remote Sensing (Satellite Imagery) and not on the basis of physical verification.**
- (b) **The committee lacked field visits. They neither visited natural landscape nor cultural landscapes extensively. They just concluded the report on few visits and discussions.**
- (c) **The consultation with the stakeholders has not been done successfully and their viewpoint has been totally neglected by the committee.**
- (d) **The complete ban on the Sand and Soil mining is a block on the future development of the area. To supply these basic materials even for sustainable development will make it unviable leading to complete standstill of development.**
- (e) **The committee has used the 2001 census for drawing the Ecologically Sensitive Area instead of making use of latest 2011 census report which has been finalised by the Govt. This would have given accurate picture of cultural landscape.**
- (f) **To consider all areas as Ecologically Sensitive Aarea, where the population density is less than 100/Sq. Km. is also not a wise proposition since, these hilly areas have population scattered all over the place.**
- (g) **To ban on Hotels of 3 Star & above (as a part of Red Category) is not good for Eco-tourism, since the need of the hour is to attract quality visitors to the area than quantity of visitors.**