

## People In Buffer Zones Won't Be Displaced, Can Continue With Agriculture: Centre

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Declaration of a buffer or eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around protected forests and sanctuaries would not result in displacement of people living there nor would it affect agriculture and horticulture practices, the Centre has said.

The Centre has also said that activities undertaken in ESZs are generally regulated and only those like commercial mining, stone quarrying and crushing units are prohibited.

The stand of the Centre, which has been informed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to Congress MP from Kerala K Muraleedharan, could allay apprehensions of those living close to protected forests and are in fear of losing their homes and livelihood if their lands come in the buffer zones.

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