

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1491
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

Environmental protection under Biological Diversity Act, 2002

1491. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 relates to conservation and protection of environment; and
- (b) whether efforts are being made by Government under these provisions for conservation of forest wealth and wildlife in Rajasthan?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is aimed towards conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resource and associated traditional knowledge. Sections 36, 37 and 38 of the Act specifically provide for conservation of biodiversity.

Section 36 of the Act primarily relates to developing national strategies, plans and programmes for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Towards this, the Government prepared a National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP). Section 37 of the Act empowers the State Governments to notify in consultation with local bodies, areas of biodiversity importance as biodiversity heritage sites under the Act. Section 38 of the Act provides that the Central Government, in consultation with the concerned State Government, may notify species which are on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in the near future as threatened species, prohibit or regulate their collection, and take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve those species.

The Act is implemented through a three-tiered institutional structure: National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards, and Biodiversity Management Committees at the local body level.

- (b) The Rajasthan State Government has set up State Biodiversity Board under Section 22(1) of the Act, and notified State specific Rules for implementation of the Act. The Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board has issued advisories to various departments of the State Government to conserve certain species under Section 23 (a) of the Act, and also issued guidelines for notification of biodiversity heritage sites under Section 37 of the Act. In Rajasthan, so far 113 Biodiversity Management Committees have been set up.
