

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2595
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.3.2023

Verification of the conservation status of plants

2595. SHRIANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has undertaken, by itself or through any of its specialized agencies, any verification of the conservation status of plants and their varieties notified as Normally Traded Commodities (NTC) as per Sec. 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 prior to their inclusion in the said list, and every year thereafter to assess their vulnerability; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b) As per section 40 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Ministry Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in consultation with the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), vide notifications dated 7th April, 2016 and November 2017 exempted 421 items including biological resources and also products that are derived from such items and traded as a matter of common practice, to be treated as normally traded as commodities. Plants and their varieties notified as Normally Traded Commodities (NTCs) have been notified based on the recommendations of an expert committee constituted by NBA for this purpose comprising of the subject experts as well as ex-officio members. The biological resources listed as NTCs are mostly from cultivated sources. However, the assessment of vulnerability of NTCs are carried out yearly for inclusion and exclusion.
