

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2438
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

Conservation of grass plants in Himachal Pradesh

2438. MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:

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

- (a) whether a special plan is being prepared by the Ministry for the conservation of wild fruit and grassy plants in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that Rakhal, Kali Papdi, Wild Walnut and Wild Almond plants are on the verge of extinction in Himachal Pradesh;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Central Government to conserve the species of plants on the verge of extinction in Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (d) The four species viz Rakhal, Kali Papdi, Wild Walnut and Wild Almond plants are not on the verge of extinction.
- (e) The different steps taken by the government to conserve the species that are on the verge of extinction are –
 1. Different species that are threatened are being categorized as critically endangered, endangered species and vulnerable.
 2. Government has declared conservation priority areas and protected areas for the conservation of species in their natural habitat.
 3. Targeted species have been conserved in various botanical gardens, particularly in the Lead botanical garden of Agriculture and horticulture universities, Forest Department and other research institutions.
Targeted species have been multiplied and rehabilitated in the natural habitat.
 4. The Government is also running different programmes for creation of awareness programmes at the local level for capacity building.
 5. Various parts and seeds have also been conserved *in vitro* storage, freezing the cutting obtained from the plant, stocking the seed in NPBGR in seed banks.
 6. The DNA of the possible extinct species has been conserved to determine the genetic viability of a species.