

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 407
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2026

Bio-diversity awareness

*407. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government is promoting bio-diversity awareness through bio-diversity-related activities in biodiversity rich areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken in this direction during the last three years, State-wise, including Uttar Pradesh?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 407 FOR REPLY ON 02.04.2026
REGARDING BIO-DIVERSITY AWARENESS ASKED BY SMT. SANGEETA
YADAV**

(a) to (c) Yes, during the last three years, the Government of India has taken several steps to promote biodiversity awareness in the various States and UTs including Uttar Pradesh through implementation of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (as amended in 2023). The Act provides for development of national and state level strategies and plans for conservation, promotion and sustainable use of biological diversity. These include measures for identification and monitoring of areas rich in biological resources, promotion of *in-situ*, and *ex-situ*, conservation of biological resources, including cultivars, folk varieties and landraces, incentives for research, training and public education to increase awareness with respect to biodiversity.

Biodiversity awareness is promoted through a decentralized and participatory three-tier institutional mechanism comprising the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) at national level, and State Biodiversity Boards/ Union Territory Biodiversity Councils at State/ UT level and Biodiversity Management Committees at grassroot level, ensuring effective outreach and community involvement. NBA in coordination with SBBs/ UTBCs facilitated the constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees across the Country, which play a key role in grassroot-level awareness and conservation activities, along with preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) at local level to document biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, thereby enhancing awareness and community participation.

Pursuant to the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (as amended in 2023), the Biological Diversity (Access to Biological Resources and Knowledge Associated thereto and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits) Regulations, 2025 was notified on 29 April 2025, superseding the Access and Benefit Sharing guidelines 2014. As on date, National Biodiversity Authority collected Access and Benefit Sharing amount to the tune of Rs. 263.00 Crores, of which Rs. 145 Crores have been disbursed through the State Biodiversity Boards/Union Territory Biodiversity Councils to the farmers, Biodiversity Management Committees and other benefit claimers. The benefit-sharing amount is utilized for supporting conservation activities and promoting socio-economic development in the areas from where the biological resources have been accessed.

The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually on 22 May at the national and State/ UT levels by organizing various outreach activities for students and local communities to enhance awareness regarding biodiversity conservation.

In the State of Uttar Pradesh, biodiversity conservation is being promoted through training and capacity building programmes for various stakeholders including BMCs and Panchayat functionaries. BMCs have been constituted in the State at grassroots level. In addition, the Forest Department of Uttar

Pradesh, undertook a large-scale plantation drive in 2025, planting more than 35 crore saplings under the Plantation Maha Abhiyan 2025 and Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign.

India updated and released its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan – (2024-2030) at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Biological Diversity (CBD CoP-16) in Cali, Colombia, on 30th October 2024 in alignment with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, reaffirming its leadership among developing countries. The updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan – (2024-2030) developed through ‘Whole-of-Government’ and ‘Whole-of-Society’ approach, emphasizes public awareness and outreach on biodiversity conservation, particularly among youth and local communities. Key initiatives include integration of biodiversity into educational curricula, promotion of eco-clubs, awareness campaigns, and digital outreach through social media and mobile applications.

Biodiversity awareness activities are also undertaken through various schemes and programmes of the Ministry. These programmes actively engage communities, promote sustainable practices, and enhance understanding of ecosystem protection, thereby transforming biodiversity awareness into a participatory and people-driven movement.

The National Museum of Natural History under MoEFCC and its regional centres, are undertaking environmental awareness programmes/ activities like poster, painting, slogan and essay competitions, debates, seminars/ workshops for all sections of the society. Summer vacation programmes and winter nature camps are also organised for schoolchildren.

In addition, various organisations/ institutions under MoEFCC play vital role in conservation, research, and outreach activities.