

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3592**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2017

**Biosphere Reserve**

3592. DR. BHAGIRATH PRASAD

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

- (a) the concept of biosphere reserves to protect and promote green areas in the country;
- (b) the details of biosphere reserves in the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to remove the trivial population from such areas; and
- (d) the policy of the Government for maintenance of these biosphere reserves and the rationale behind it?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (a) Biosphere Reserve (BR) is an international designation by UNESCO for representative parts of natural and cultural landscapes extending over large area of terrestrial or coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination thereof. BRs are designated to deal with one of the most important questions of reconciling the conservation of biodiversity, the quest for economic and social development and maintenance of associated cultural values. BRs are thus special environments for both people and the nature and are living examples of how human beings and nature can co-exist while respecting each others needs.
- (b) There are 18 Biosphere Reserves in the country. List of Biosphere Reserves is given in the Annexure.
- (c) No, sir, there is no such proposal under this scheme.
- (d) The Biosphere Reserve Program is guided by UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) program as India is a signatory to the landscape approach supported by MAB program. A scheme called Biosphere Reserve is being implemented by Government of India since 1986 in which financial assistance is given in 90:10 ratio to the North Eastern Region States and three Himalayan states and in 60:40 ratio to other states for maintenance, improvement and development of certain items. The State Government prepares the Management Action Plan which is approved and monitored by Central MAB Committee.

**Annexure with respect to reply of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3592 for answer on 08.08.2017**

- 1) Cold Desert, Himachal Pradesh
- 2) Nanda Devi, Uttrakhand
- 3) Khangchendzonga, Sikkim
- 4) Dehang-Debang, Arunachal Pradesh
- 5) Manas, Assam
- 6) Dibru-Saikhowa, Assam
- 7) Nokrek, Meghalaya
- 8) Panna, Madhya Pradesh
- 9) Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh
- 10) Achanakmar-Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh-Chattisgarh
- 11) Kachchh, Gujarat
- 12) Similipal, Odisha
- 13) Sundarban, West Bengal
- 14) Seshachalam, Andhra Pradesh
- 15) Agasthyamala, Karnataka-Tamil Nadu-Kerala
- 16) Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu-Kerala
- 17) Gulf of Mannar, Tamil Nadu
- 18) Great Nicobar, Andaman & Nicobar Island

\*\*\*\*\*