

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1340
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

Conservation of Biodiversity

1340. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK":

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

- (a) the areas identified for conservation/development of biodiversity in the Himalayan region in the country;
- (b) the number of institutes engaged to carry out research work with regard to conservation of biodiversity in the country; and
- (c) the action plan formulated by the Government to ensure that hydro power projects and other development activities causes no harm to biodiversity in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Conservation and development of biodiversity in the country, including Himalayan region is undertaken inter alia through establishment of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries, notified Reserved Forest areas, designation of Biosphere Reserves, identification of ecologically fragile areas such as wetlands, biodiversity heritage sites and notification of eco-sensitive zones. So far, 37 National Parks, 122 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 7 Biosphere Reserves have been designated by Government of India in the Himalayan region. State-wise distribution of these areas in the Himalayan region is at Annexure.
- (b) Some of the prominent institutes engaged in research work relating to conservation of biodiversity at present in the country inter alia include Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, Wildlife Institute of India, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Indian Institute of Science (Centre for Ecological Sciences), Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education and Indian Institute of Forest Management. Besides, a large number of Central Government Institutes, State Government organizations, Universities and Non-Government Organisations are engaged in research work relating to biodiversity in the country.

- (c) Some of the measures taken by the Government to protect biodiversity in case of hydel power projects and other development projects include appraisal of project proposals for environment clearance as per the provisions of Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006, as amended from time to time, wherein mitigation measures for impacts on environment, ecology, wildlife as well as social impacts are embodied in Environment Management Plans prepared for respective projects; appraisal of project proposals requiring forest clearance as per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Rules 2003 as amended; and appraisal of project proposals within National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries as per the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, as amended from time to time.

Annexure**State wise distribution of protected areas in Indian Himalayan Region**

States in Indian Himalayan Region	Number of National Parks	Number of Wildlife Sanctuary	Number of Biosphere Reserve
Arunachal Pradesh	2	11	2
Assam	5	18	1
Himachal Pradesh	5	28	1
Jammu & Kashmir	4	15	-
Manipur	1	2	-
Meghalaya	2	4	1
Mizoram	2	8	-
Nagaland	1	3	-
Sikkim	1	7	1
Tripura	2	4	-
Uttarakhand	6	7	1
West Bengal	6	15	-
Total	37	122	7