

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3635
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2018

Pollution Control and Management of Natural Resources

3635 SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:

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

- (a) Whether the country stands at the 123rd position whereas Britain is at 14th, Germany at 17th and Japan at the 20th position in the global rankings regarding pollution control and natural resources management and if so, the details thereof;
- (b). Whether three species of animals become extinct every hour due to the present levels of pollution as had happened 6.5 crore years earlier when the dinosaurs had become extinct; and
- (c) If so, the steps taken by the Government so far for improving the pollution control and natural resources management in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Various civil society and academic groups use different environmental performance indices for ranking countries. In one of these, namely, Environment Performance Index (EPI) jointly authored by two US Universities (Yale/New Haven and Columbia/New York) and commissioned by the World Economic Forum/Davos India has been ranked 123rd in the year 2010.
- (b) Scientist estimate that globally, the rate of extinction of species has increased by almost 50-100 times the natural rate, largely because of habitat change, over-exploitation, invasive alien species, pollution and climate change. As a result, more species are threatened with extinction.
- (c) Some important steps taken by the Government for conservation of biodiversity and resources inter alia include: survey, inventorization, taxonomic validation and threat assessment of floral and faunal resources; assessment of the forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring; establishment of a Protected Area

Network of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation and Community Reserves; designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems; undertaking of species oriented programmes, such as Project Tiger and Project Elephant; complemented with ex-situ conservation efforts. In addition, Biological Diversity Act 2002 has also been enacted with the aim to conserve biological resources of the country and regulation of access to these resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use, under which a National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards in all States have been set up for implementing the provisions of the Act.
