

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2794
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2018

Conservation of Bio-diversity

2794. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:

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

- (a) the areas identified for conservation/development of bio-diversity in the Himalayan region in the country;
- (b) the number of institutes engaged to carry out research work with regard to conservation of bio-diversity in the country; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the international target of identifying wildlife and marine protected areas by 2020?

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, and 7 Biosphere Reserves have been designated by the Government 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) There are 769 protected areas notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, which include 25 Marine Protected Areas in peninsular India and 106 Island Marine Protected Areas in islands. The National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031) has a

dedicated chapter on ‘Strengthening and Improving the Protected Area Network’. The global Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and the corresponding National Biodiversity Target 6 relate to conservation through protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures. With well over 20 percent of its geographical area under biodiversity conservation, India has exceeded the terrestrial component of 17% of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and 20% of National Biodiversity Target 6.

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