

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2895
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

Biological Diversity Act

2895. SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:

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

- (a) whether the loss of biodiversity and extinction of plants and animals are increasing in a big way;
- (b) the steps proposes to be taken by the Government to address this issue;
- (c) the details of Biodiversity Heritage Sites that have been notified as per Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002;
- (d) the details of the sites which are notified because of the rich wealth of agro-diversity contained therein;
- (e) the details of the plan proposed by the Government for selecting and notifying more sites to protect India's rich heritage of agro-diversity; and
- (f) whether the Government has any schemes to support farmers who are into seed conservation work and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (e) The Government of India has taken several steps for conservation of biodiversity which includes survey, inventorization, taxonomic validation and threat assessment of floral and faunal resources; assessment to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring as well as conservation and protection of forests; 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, Project Elephant, Project Dolphin; complemented with ex-situ conservation efforts.

A total of 1,02,718 species of fauna and 54,733 species of flora have been documented in the 10 biogeographic zones of the country. For ensuring protection of flora and fauna within protected areas, management plans are prepared by State Forest Departments which inter alia include a schedule of activities to be take-up over a period of ten years. The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 provides for diligence to be taken before approval of any activity is accorded by the State Government within a protected area to ensure conservation and protection of biodiversity.

As per Section 37 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act,2002 the State Government

may, from time to time in consultation with the local bodies, notify in the Official Gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

So far forty four (44) Biodiversity Heritage Sites have been notified by sixteen (16) states. The details of these sites are at **ANNEXURE**.

- (f) The Government of India is creating awareness on conservation of plant genetic resources including seeds of farmers' varieties and landraces through the schemes like Tribal Sub-Plan, North-Eastern Hill Region and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan. A total of 233 most potential varieties of different crops identified by farmers are being conserved through on-farm cultivation, value chain and marketing involving Self Help Groups and Farmer Producer Organizations (in seven states including Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh) by National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources - Indian Council for Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

ANNEXURE

Sl. No.	Name of Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)	Location	Area (Ha)	Date of Notification
1.	Nallur Tamarind Grove	Bengaluru, Karnataka	21.85	20.07.2007
2.	Hogrekan	Chikmagluru, Karnataka	1015	30.04.2010
3.	University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus	Bengaluru, Karnataka	167	02.09.2010
4.	Ambaraguda	Shimoga, Karnataka	3857.17	18.11.2011
5.	Glory of Allapalli	Gadchiroli, Maharashtra	6	15.07.2014
6.	Tonglu BHS	Darjeeling, West Bengal	230	20.03.2015
7.	Dhotrey BHS	Darjeeling, West Bengal	180	20.03.2015
8.	Ghariyal Rehabilitation Centre	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	10	11.08.2016
8.	Ameenpur lake	Sangareddy, Telangana	229.05	21.11.2016
10.	Majuli	Majuli, Assam	87500	29.03.2017
11.	Dialong Village	Tamenglong, Manipur	1135	23.05.2017
12.	Chilkigarh Kanak Durga	Jhargram, West Bengal	22.62	21.05.2018
13.	Khlaw Kur Syiem Kmielng	Ri Bhoi, Meghalaya	16.05	13.12.2018
14.	Mandasaru	Kandhamal, Odisha	528	12.03.2019
15.	Asramam	Kollam, Kerala	57.33	19.06.2019
16.	Naro Hills	Satna, Madhya Pradesh	200	31.10.2019
17.	Patalkot	Chhindwara, Madya Pradesh	8367.49	31.10.2019
18.	Purvatali Rai	North Goa, Goa	0.73	21.12.2019
19.	Baneswar Shiva Dighi	Cooch Behar-II, West Bengal	0.667	14.08.2020
20.	Ganeshkhind Garden	Pune, Maharashtra	33.01	31.08.2020
21.	Landorkhori	Jalgaon, Maharashtra	48.08	31.08.2020
22.	Bambarde Myristica Swamps	Dodamarg, Maharashtra	2.59	28.01.2021
23.	Schistura Hiranyakeshi	Sindhudurg, Maharashtra	2.11	31.03.2021
24.	Amarkantak	Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh	7681.50	22.07.2022
25.	Borjuli Wild Rice Site	Sonitpur, Assam	0.41	10.08.2022
26.	Hajong Tortoise Lake	Dima Hasao, Assam	526.78	10.08.2022
27.	Birch Pine Forest Patch at	Lahaul & Spiti,	12.22	18.08.2022

Sl. No.	Name of Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)	Location	Area (Ha)	Date of Notification
	Nain Gahar	Himachal Pradesh		
28.	High Altitude Meadow at Hudan Bhatori	Chamba, Himachal Pradesh	8.74	18.08.2022
29.	Sacred Grove at Sural Bhatori Monastery	Chamba, Himachal Pradesh	0.60	18.08.2022
30.	Baramura waterfall	Khowai, Tripura	150	12.09.2022
31.	Betlingshib and its surroundings	North District, Tripura	350	12.09.2022
32.	Debbari or Chabimura	Gomati, Tripura	215	12.09.2022
33.	Silachari Caves	Gomati, Tripura	100	12.09.2022
34.	Unakoti	Unakoti, Tripura	40	12.09.2022
35.	Arittapatti	Madurai, Tamil Nadu	193.215	22.11.2022
36.	Mahendragiri Hill	Gajapati, Odisha	4250	25.11.2022
37.	Amkhoi wood fossil park	Birbhum, West Bengal	10	17.03.2023
38.	Char Balidanga	Nadia, West Bengal	46.862	17.03.2023
39.	Namthing Pokhari	Darjeeling, West Bengal	4.819	17.03.2023
40.	State Horticulture Research and Development Station	Nadia, West Bengal	39.61	17.03.2023
41.	Gandhamardan Hill	Bolangir & Bargarh, Odisha	18963.898	20.03.2023
42.	Birampur- Baguran Jalpai	Purba Medinipur, West Bengal	95.91	16.05.2023
43.	Haldir Char Island	Purba Medinipur, West Bengal	4.73	16.05.2023
44.	Tungkyong Dho	North Sikkim, Sikkim	0.0650	02.06.2023