

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.219\***  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022

**Initiatives/Plans for Conservation of Biodiversity**

\*219. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiative or launched any plan to address the lack of biodiversity for better protection of environment during this year; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with future initiative in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) & (b) The statement is laid on the table of the House.

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**Statement refer to in reply to part (a) and (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 219\* due for reply on 01.08.2022 regarding Initiatives/Plans for Conservation of Biodiversity by Shri Sunil Kumar Mondal**

The Government of India has taken several steps for conservation of biodiversity of the country which include 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 and Project Elephant; complemented with ex-situ conservation efforts.

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 taken up over a period of ten years. The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 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.

In addition, the Central Government provides financial assistance to States and Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as: Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat; Project Tiger, and Project Elephant for better protection and conservation of wildlife and their habitat.

The National Afforestation & Eco-development Board of the Ministry promotes afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco development activities in the country, with special attention to degraded areas as well as ecologically fragile areas.

Furthermore, the 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.

Some of the measures taken towards implementation of the Biological Diversity Act include: formation of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBCs) in all States and UTs, declaration of 23 Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS), notification of threatened species which are on the verge of extinction for 18 states (Assam, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal), establishment of 2.76 lakh Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and preparation of 2.67 lakh People's Biodiversity Registers in 28 States and 7 UTs.

The Government of India has taken several initiatives for protection of biodiversity and conservation like National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC); National Mission on Sustainable Habitat; National Water Mission; National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan

Ecosystem; Green India Mission; National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture; Progressing Adaptation Actions, National Wetland Conservation Programme; National Lake conservation Programme; Soil and Water Conservation in the Catchment of Rivers; Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas; Water Resources programme for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water bodies with Domestic/External Assistance.

Towards the conservation of Wetlands, as of July, 2022 the number of Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance) in India have increased from 26 to 54. India has the largest number of Ramsar sites in South Asia i.e. 54.

India added 540 species to its faunal database in 2021 taking the total number of animal species to 1,03,258 and 315 taxa to the Indian flora during 2021, taking the number of floral taxa in the country to 55,048. The details of state/UT wise initiative/schemes can be seen at Annexure 1.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO PART (a) AND (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 219\* DUE FOR REPLY ON 01.08.2022 REGARDING INITIATIVES/PLANS FOR CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Initiatives</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Nagaland</b>	Revised State Biodiversity and Action plan was launched on 22 May 2022. Implementation of project for conservation and preservation of 7 Landscapes spread over 12 Community Conservation Areas.
<b>2</b>	<b>Assam</b>	State Biodiversity Board prepared the 'Assam State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2030 in the year 2017, with technical assistance for conservation of biodiversity in the state of Assam.
<b>3</b>	<b>Manipur</b>	Operationalization of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at District, Zilla Parishad, Gram Panchayat, Urban Local Body levels for promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers(PBRs) to cover the constituted BMCs.
<b>4</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	The Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board has prepared the second generation "Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (UP-SBSAP-2021-2030)". The Plan envisaged extensive consultative processes involving sectors, agencies, professionals, practitioners, communities, NGOs and BMCs.
<b>5</b>	<b>Mizoram</b>	Constitution of BMC in all local bodies and preparation of PBRs all BMCs and field validation as well as updating of PBRs is being carried out.
<b>6</b>	<b>Meghalaya</b>	Functionalization/ operationalization of BMCs. The documentation of State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2030 has been completed and the Board has started working for the implementation of the MBSAP. First BHS declared as the Khlaw Kur Syiem Kmielng Biodiversity Heritage Site.
<b>7</b>	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	Three sites namely i) Hudan Bhatori, Pangi valley in Chamba District, ii) Sural Bhatori, Pangi valley in Chambal District & iii) Nain Gahar village, Gram Panchayat Mooring, Lahaul valley having unique, threatened and endemic biodiversity components, have been declared as BHS.. Documents on Biodiversity or State have been prepared namely Status of Biodiversity in Himachal Pradesh; Traditional Food Grain Crops of Himachal Pradesh; Wild Edible Fruits of Himachal Pradesh; Fish Diversity in Himachal Pradesh; Tradable Bioresources of Himachal Pradesh. Studies on important aspects or Biodiversity carried out through R&D Institutions include Population Assessment of 11 Highly Traded and High Value Endemic Medicinal Plant Species in collaboration with HFRI Shimla.
<b>8</b>	<b>Punjab</b>	Conducted Water Bird Census at internationally recognized Ramsar Wetland site "Keshopur-Miani" in collaboration with WWF India on 12th February 2022 under Asian Water Bird Census- 2022.
<b>9</b>	<b>Maharashtra</b>	The Maharashtra Gene Bank Project prepared by Rajiv Gandhi Science and Level research institutions, grassroots NGOs and network of rural communities & aligned departments in 27 of the 36 Districts Technology Commission.
<b>10</b>	<b>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Is.</b>	The UT Administration has issued intention notification for creation of 3 more Wildlife Sanctuaries namely Leatherback Turtle Sanctuary at Little Nicobar

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Initiatives</b>
	<b>(UT)</b>	Islands, Megapode Sanctuary at Menchal Island and Coral Sanctuary at Meroe Island to protect and conserve the critical taxa of Leatherback turtle, Nicobar Megapode and Coral Reefs and their habitats.