

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 162
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

Biodiversity loss due to Urbanization and Industrialization

162. SMT. SHAMBHAVI:
SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI RAJESH VERMA:

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

- (a) the details of the measures inducted by the Government to address the challenges of biodiversity loss due to urbanization and industrialization during last five years;
- (b) the amount of budget utilized on such steps/measures;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to protect endangered species and their habitats in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps/ measures to promote sustainable practices in agriculture to mitigate climate change impacts, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the steps undertaken by the Government for enhancing public awareness and involvement in environmental conservation efforts?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH))

- (a) to (c) The Government of India has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which provides for diligence to be taken before approval for any activity is accorded by the State Government within a protected area to ensure conservation and protection of biodiversity. 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.

Furthermore, the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its amendment, 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.

The Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 has been notified under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for regulation of access to biological resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use.

The Government of India provides financial assistance to States and Union Territories under species-oriented Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat, Project Tiger and Project Elephant. Further, organizations including the Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India aid in survey, inventorization, taxonomic validation, threat assessment of floral and faunal resources along with ex-situ conservation.

Some of the measures taken towards implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 include – formation of State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils in all States and Union Territories, declaration of 47 Biodiversity Heritage Sites, establishment of Biodiversity Management Committees and preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers in 28 States and 5 Union Territories. Under this Act, this Ministry, in consultation with the State Governments concerned, has also notified threatened species in 18 States and 2 Union Territories. This notification confers power to the State Biodiversity Boards and Union Territories Biodiversity Councils to regulate access to the notified species and to take measures to preserve those species.

Further, the Government of India has taken several steps to address the challenges of biodiversity loss in the country which includes implementation of National Mission on Sustainable Habitat; National Water Mission; National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem; Green India Mission; National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems; Amrit Dharohar; Water Resources programme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water bodies; Nagar Van Yojana; Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes; and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management. These initiatives promote afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities and wetlands conservation in the country, including biodiversity conservation.

In addition, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released and uploaded the India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and National Biodiversity Targets, aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, on the dedicated portal of Convention on Biological Diversity.

- (d) Towards promoting sustainable agriculture practices to mitigate climate change impacts, the National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture and National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem, under the National Action Plan for Climate Change, are being implemented. Under these Missions, research on climate resilient agriculture is being promoted and the technologies are being

demonstrated in farmers' field for developing the climate resilient agricultural villages. Efforts to develop climate resilient agriculture are also being taken by various State Governments.

- (e) The Government of India has launched the National Green Corps (Eco-Clubs) to engage school students in activities such as tree plantation and waste management. Further, various campaigns are being taken up including **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** and **Namami Gange** which emphasize the importance of public involvement in sanitation and river conservation efforts. In 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched **Mission Sahbhagita** as an essential step towards participatory conservation and wise use of wetlands and in 2023 the **Save Wetlands Campaign** was launched to sensitize people about wetlands values. Environmental education is incorporated into school curricula, and awareness is further fostered through national observances like World Environment Day. The **Green Skill Development Program** is also being implemented by the Government of India which equips youth with vital conservation skills and encourage local communities to participate in forest management practices.

During the updation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change conducted several National and Regional workshops with relevant stakeholders, ministries and departments.

In addition, the Government of India has also launched **Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)** and a Campaign '**Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam**' that are aimed at improving public awareness and participation in environmental conservation activities.
