

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:228

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001

DEGRADATION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

VISHNU DATT

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in bio-diversity India has gone down to tenth position from second position after Brazil in 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to halt the accelerated process of degradation of natural environmental and ecological balances in the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) In 1990, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Resource Institute and World Wildlife Fund, identified twelve countries as megabiodiversity countries. The concept of megabiodiversity is based upon the species richness and endemism levels. The ranking among these twelve countries has been done on the basis of the number of species of flowering plants. As per this ranking, India occupies the tenth position. There has been no change in the ranking till now.

(b) Does not arise.