

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1052
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
BIO SPHERE RESERVES
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) The total number of bio-sphere reserves in the country and the reserve which gets the maximum amount of funds;
- (b) The date on which Nanda Devi was declared as biosphere reserve along with objectives thereof;
- (c) The details of the objectives accomplished so far; and
- (d) The barriers standing in the way of its full accomplishment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) Fourteen Biosphere Reserves have been notified in the country. The sanction of financial assistance and its quantum depends on various factors namely requirement, justification of the proposal, submission of utilization certificate, physical progress report and capacity to use funds by the concerned state, Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve in West Bengal received maximum grant during the-current year in the light of the above stated parameters.
- (b) Nanda Devi was declared as Biosphere Reserve on 18th January, 1988, The area was extended from 2236.74 sq.km. to 5860.69 sq.km. on 7.2.2000.The objectives of designating an area as Biosphere Reserve are to conserve the floral and faunal biodiversity of the area and provide supplementary and alternate livelihood support to the people in the buffer zone around core zone in order to reduce biotic pressure on biodiversity.
- (c) Various conservation activities are being carried out and biodiversity monitoring is being undertaken through a series of eminent central and state level institutions. Livelihood opportunities have been increased through ecotourism, eco-development and other occupational avenues.
- (d) The area is mostly inaccessible and snow bound leading to limited working period.