

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:303
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010
BIO-DIVERSITY RESOURCES
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Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken/being taken to convert bio-diversity resources into value added products for domestic use and exports; and
- (b) the total number of such items/substances exported during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR EARTH SCIENCES PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) to (b): Several innovative programmes have been launched by the Department of Biotechnology to screen, characterize and improve important resources. The initial emphasis is on biological, chemical and molecular characterization, downstream processing, modification of existing methods for products of commercial importance to make them more eco-friendly and economically viable. Some important targeted are:- Sugarcane, tea, coffee, zingibers, seabuckthorn, jute, bamboo neera, fodder grasses and honey bee. Novel genes, molecules, enzymes etc. have been prospecte from the rich biodiversity of plants, microbes, fungi, lichens for production of potential products of industrial importance. Novel genes, promoters, transcription factors were identified so as to develop transgenic for biotic and abiotic stress and for understanding different metabolic engineering pathway(s) operative in a system. Two products namely a biopesticide formulation 'Bollcure' for Bollworm eradication from Eucalyptus and a microbial biofertilizer from Mangrove region for Paddy crops have been developed and transferred to the industries