

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:576

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010

EXTINCTION OF ENDANGERED PLANTS

Ananth Kumar Shri ;Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) whether a number of plants including medicinal and aromatic plants in the country are extinct or are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the names of such plants identified by the Union Government, State- wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the states for the protection of plants which are on the verge of extinction;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State- wise; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Government to protect these plants?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 576 due for reply on 05.05.2010 regarding Extinction of Endangered Plants

(a) According to Botanical Survey of India (BSI), out of about 18795 reported species of vascular plants including medicinal and aromatic plants in India, 19 species are recorded to be extinct and about 1200 species are prone to extinction due to various anthropogenic reasons.

(b) A State-wise list of threatened plant species in the country as prepared by Botanical Survey of India (BSI) is at Annexure I and the list of extinct plants is at Annexure-II. The plants are threatened largely due to loss of habitat owing to various man-made pressures.

(c)&(d) No such specific proposals have been received by the Central Government from the States for protection of plants which are on the verge of extinction.

(e) To conserve plan diversity in general and protect the threatened species in particular, habitat improvement is the primary measure. For this purpose, about 76.9 million ha. of country's geographical area has been notified as forests and receives protection under Indian Forests Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and various State Acts. Out of these recorded forests about 16 million ha. has been brought under the Protected Area Network that include 100 National Parks, 514 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 43 Conservation Reserves and 4 Community Reserves. These areas receive additional protection under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Further, 16 Biosphere Reserves have been constituted for landscape conservation. Plants listed as threatened receive special attention under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Apart from protection of the threatened species in their habitat (in-situ) their propagation (ex-situ) is encouraged through various programmes of the Central/State Governments, e.g. 'Assistance to Botanical Gardens Scheme' of Ministry of Environment and Forests.