

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3539
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh

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

- (a) whether several countries including India met at Nagoya, Japan in October, 2010 to discuss ways and means for protecting the diversity of earth's natural resources;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome of the Meet;
- (c) the main resolutions passed at the Meet;
- (d) the follow up action taken by participant countries; and
- (e) the benefits likely to accrue to India which is a bio-diversity rich nation?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Over 7,000 delegates representing Governments, UN agencies, and others met in Nagoya, Japan from 18-29th October, 2010 for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP-10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). India, which is a Party to the CBD, also participated in this meeting.

(b) & (c) The main outcomes of CoP-10 are: adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefit Arising from their Utilisation; adoption of Strategic Plan for the CBD for the period 2011-2020; and activities for resource mobilisation.

(d) & (e) As a country rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge, adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), holds special significance for India. The ABS Protocol sets out rules and procedures for prior informed consent of the country providing the genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefit arising from the utilisation of these resources and associated traditional knowledge based on mutually agreed terms. The Protocol also has provisions for compliance, including monitoring of the use of these resources at designated check-points. The Protocol is expected to address concerns of India and other biodiversity-rich countries of misappropriation of their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

The ABS Protocol shall be open for signatures by Governments from 2nd February, 2011 to 1st February, 2012 at the United Nations Headquarter, 2012. Follow-up action by Governments would include signing and thereafter ratification of the Protocol.