

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5145

ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011

EXTINCTION OF PLANTS

Maharaj Shri Satpal;Singh Baba Shri K.C.;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has conducted any survey/assessment of plants, herbs, shrubs etc. on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of plants, herbs having medicinal properties including Chyura (Diploknema Butyracea) which are on the verge of extinction including Uttarakhand in the country;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect them and the name of agencies involved in their exploitation; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government against the agencies found guilty in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the survey/assessment conducted by Botanical Survey of India (BSI), about 1236 plants, herbs, shrubs are threatened and are prone to extinction. Out of these, 53 plants, herbs, shrubs in the country including those in Uttarakhand, have medicinal properties.

(c) & (d) To conserve plant 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 (WLPA). Plants listed as threatened receive special attention under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002. While exploitation of plants, herbs in the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries is completely banned under WLPA, 1972 and orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the threatened plants, herbs outside these areas including those which are on the verge of extinction are accorded protection under the Chapter IIIA of WLPA, 1972. Implementation of these Acts is the mandate of the State Governments who take action against violation of provisions of the Act including illegal collection of plants by any person/agency