

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2891
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011
PROTECTION OF HONEY BEES
McLeod Smt. Ingrid

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

- (a) whether the 'honey bees' are on the verge of extinct from the environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government protect the 'honey bees'?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) There are no reports indicating that honey bees are on the verge of extinction in the wild. However, it has been noticed that the population of honey bees in the wild are decreasing due to various factors like denudation of forests, global warming, forest fires, lack of bee-friendly flora, use of pesticides, etc. Further, the report submitted by the Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the impact of mobile towers on birds and bees also suggests negative impacts of mobile towers on honey bees.

(c) As informed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Honey bee culture and honey extraction is practiced as a horticultural activity in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture has set up a National Bee Board (NBB) to implement various activities for promoting scientific bee keeping in the country under the National Horticultural Mission. Under this Mission, 'Pollination support through bee keeping' is one of the important components to promote scientific bee keeping.

As regards protection of honey bees in the wild, financial and technical assistance under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes are provided for conservation and protection of wildlife in Protected Areas and other habitats of wildlife which includes honey bees also.