

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1459
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012
DECLARATION OF BIO-DIVERSITY SITES
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for declaration of Bio-diversity Heritage Sites (BHSs) in the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposal from the experts for a bio-diversity literacy movement initiation to educate people regarding the importance of genetic resources; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) As per the provisions of Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (B.D. Act), the State Governments, may, in consultation with the local bodies, notify areas of biodiversity importance as biodiversity heritage sites under this Act; in consultation with the Central Government frame rules for the management and conservation of these sites; and also frame schemes for compensating or rehabilitating people economically affected by such notification. Thus, the onus of notifying areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites is with the State Governments. The Government has accordingly written to all State Government for identification of areas as Biodiversity Sites in their States. Guidelines for identification, selection and management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites have also been posted on the website of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), a statutory and autonomous organization under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d) &(e) A proposal on "Bio literacy for Biodiversity Conservation" was submitted by M/s Centre for Ecological and Research, Thanjavur to the NBA. The proposal was considered by the NBA and forwarded to the Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board for action, as appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of the B.D. Act.