

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6364
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013
AUDIT OF GENETIC RESOURCES
Tandon Annu

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering audit of genetic resources in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether as part of the audit, the Government is imparting a biodiversity value to said genetic resources; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) As per the information received from the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture, the five bureaus under ICAR viz. National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (NBAIM) and National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAII), are mandated to undertake exploration, survey, collection, exchange, characterization, evaluation, conservation besides cataloguing and auditing of genetic resources of plants, animals, fish, microbes and insects, respectively. These catalogues are published and also uploaded on the websites of these bureaus.

NBPGR was audited under section 20(1) of the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971. The audit, covering the period from 1997-98 to 2002-03, focused on issues related to management of plant genetic resources by NBPGR apart from financial and other aspects.

(C) and (d) The ICAR has initiated an Agro-biodiversity Platform in the XII Plan to address efficient management and effective use of the country's genetic resources in a holistic manner.

The organized conservation of genetic resources (both ex situ and in situ) is a pre-requisite for future generations to be able to breed crop varieties, animal breeds and utilize other genetic resources for tackling new challenges.

In addition, Pursuant to the international The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) report, the Ministry of Environment and Forests commissioned three scoping studies to cover corresponding three important ecosystems of the country namely forests, inland waters and coastal and marine. Based on the scoping reports, a working document entitled 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) – India: Initial Assessment and Scoping Report' was prepared and showcased at the eleventh Conference of Parties (CoP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in October 2012, Hyderabad.

Further, the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) commissioned eight studies on NRA covering sectors of land, forest, air, water and mining in eight states to various specialised institutions during 2000-2006. No specific proposal on valuation is under active consideration in the Central Statistics Office.