

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3314  
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009  
PROTECTION OF FLORA  
Shanavas Shri M. I.

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

- (a) whether the study conducted by Scientists of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) at Puthurvayal, Wayanad, Kerala had identified 2,034 plants including three new species belonging to Annonaceae family (custard apple family) and oberonia swaminathanii of the orchid family;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government to promote and protect the rare flora available in Wayanad, Kerala;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase the facilities by increasing the infrastructure and scientists for setting up Research Institute of International standard in Wayanad, Kerala;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to allocate additional funds for research relating to the rare flora in Wayanad District of Kerala; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, sir. The study conducted by the scientists of M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation on the Taxonomy of the Wild Plant Diversity of Wayanad district, Kerala recorded a total number of 2034 species belonging to 903 genera and 171 families from an area of 2031 sq. km. The study resulted in the discovery of three new taxa, viz. Miliusa wayanadica, Miliusa gokhalae and Oberonia swaminathanii.
- (b) Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 30 lakhs for the protection and conservation of the High Value Biodiversity of Kurichiyarmala- Banasuramala in the South Wayanad Division under the scheme "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat- Protection of Wildlife Outside the Protected Areas".
- (c) & (d) No, sir.
- (e) & (f) There is no such proposal for allocation of additional funds for research relating to the subject. Ministry funds research projects in the prioritized areas as and when received as per the prescribed guidelines.