

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:291

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016

Biodiversity Hotspots

Meinya Dr. Thokchom

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

- (a) the identified Biodiversity hotspots in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the initiatives/steps taken by the Government to safeguard these hotspots;
- (c) whether the Government has allocated/sanctioned funds for the protection and preservation of these hotspots; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, location and State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 291 TO BE ANSWERED ON 6.12.2016 REGARDING BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS BY DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA.

(a) According to India's Fifth National Report submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2014, out of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots, four are present in India which are:

- (i) Himalaya: (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and hill regions of Assam and West Bengal).
- (ii) Indo-Burma: (Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura)
- (iii) Western Ghats and Sri Lanka: (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu)
- (iv) Sundalands: Nicobar group of Islands

(b) Some important initiatives taken by the Government for safeguarding these hotspots in the country include: survey, inventorization, taxonomic validation and threat assessment of floral and faunal resources; assessment of the forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring; establishment of a Protected Area Network of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation and Community Reserves; designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems; undertaking of species oriented programmes, such as Project Tiger and Project Elephant; complemented with ex-situ conservation efforts. In addition, Biological Diversity Act 2002 has also been enacted with the aim to conserve biological resources of the country and regulation of access to these resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use, under which a National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards in all States have been set up for implementing the provisions of the Act.

(c)& (d) The Government has released funds for the protection and preservation of these hotspots to States/UTs during the last three years and current year through various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes including 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (Annex-1), Project Tiger (Annex-2), Project Elephant' (Annex-3). The Department of Biotechnology has an Environmental Biotechnology programme with the overall aim of ex-situ conservation and characterization of biodiversity in various parts of country, including biodiversity hotspots in Western Ghats and North Eastern Region of India. The details of the funds released during the last three years and current year under this programme are given at Annex-4.
