

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3498
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Biodiversity Management Committees
Shanavas Shri M. I.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of reports indicating a lax attitude in the establishment of Biodiversity Management Committees as required under the Biological Diversity Act in all local bodies in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of such committees established so far, State-wise; and;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that Biodiversity Management Committees are set up in all the local bodies in the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) and (b) The Biological Diversity Act requires that every Local Body has to constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) within its area as per Section 41(1) of the Act. Setting up of BMCs is an ongoing exercise. So far, 62,502 BMCs have been constituted by the local bodies in 26 States, details of which are given in the Annexure.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to facilitate setting up of BMCs by the local bodies in the country. The Government provides financial assistance through the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) to the State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) for constitution of BMCs in the local bodies concerned. NBA has issued Guidelines for formation and operationalization of BMCs for the use by the States. The Ministry of Panchayat Raj, at the behest of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has issued directions to all the States/UTs to constitute BMCs wherever not constituted, at the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions in coordination with the SBBS. Further, constitution of BMCs is also being undertaken under the externally aided projects being implemented by NBA in different States. The Government through NBA is actively pursuing with the SBBs as well as State Governments for constituting BMCs by the local bodies.
