

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2694

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014

BIO DIVERSITY

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the bio-diversity in the entire Himalayan region;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (c) the comprehensive measures being taken by the Government for the protection and conservation of the bio-diversity in the said region?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Through its Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), the Government undertakes/conducts studies on biodiversity through survey, inventory, taxonomic validation and threat assessment of flora and fauna of the country, including Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). As per the information provided by BSI, it is estimated that around 10,000 species of plants occur in IHR. Similarly, ZSI estimated over 15,000 faunal species in IHR. While ZSI has published its findings from IHR in 44 publications, BSI has brought out 81 publications.

Government established Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development (GBPIED) in 1988, as a dedicated Research and Development Institute for IHR. As per the information supplied by GBPIED, over 100 papers, several books and documents pertaining to IHR have been brought out by it.

Government has also established five National Bureaus dealing with genetic resources of plants, animals, insects, microorganisms and fish of the country, including IHR. These are the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), with a total of 4,08,186 plant genetic resource accessions; the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), which has a total holding of 1,23,483 frozen semen doses from 276 breeding males representing 38 breeds of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, camel, yak and horse for ex situ conservation; the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (NBAIM), with a repository of 4668 cultures, including 4644 indigenous and 24 exotic accessions; and the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAII), with 593 insect germplasm holdings. The National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR), with a repository of 2553 native finfishes and Fish Barcode Information System were updated with 2570 microsatellite sequences.

(c) The protection of Bio-diversity of the Indian Himalayan Region is ensured through the enforcement of various laws such as Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Forest Conservation Act, 1980; Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Rules under these Acts. A Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been constituted by Government to check illegal trade and smuggling in wildlife. Further, several measures have been undertaken by the Government to conserve the biological diversity of the country, including that of the Himalayan region. These inter-alia include: survey and inventorisation of floral and faunal resources; assessment of 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; conservation of ecologically fragile areas such as mangroves, wetlands and coral reefs; implementing species-oriented conservation programmes such as Project Tiger and Project Elephant; ex-situ conservation through setting up of botanic gardens, zoos, gene banks; and enactment of the Biological Diversity Act in 2002, under which a National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards are set up, for implementing the provisions of the Act.