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Title: The Minister of State of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs made a statement regarding the ratification of Nagoya Protocol during India's Presidency of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): I beg to lay the statement on the Table.

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, encompasses the variety of all life on earth. Biodiversity forms the web of life of which we are an integral part and upon which we so fully depend. Humanity derives its supplies of, food, medicines, energy and many industrial products from biological resources.

India is a recognized megadiverse country, rich in biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge. With only 2.4% of land area, it accounts for 7-8% of recorded species, while supporting 18% of human and 18% of cattle population. India is also rich in associated traditional knowledge, which is both coded as in the ancient texts of Indian systems of medicines such as Ayurveda, Unani and Sidha, and also non-coded, as it exists in oral undocumented traditions. The genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge can be used to develop a wide range of products and services for human benefit, such as medicines, agricultural practices, cosmetics etc.

India is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which is one of the agreements adopted during the Rio Earth Summit held in 1992. One of the three objectives of the CBD relates to access and benefit sharing (ABS), which refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and benefits resulting from their use shared by the users with the countries that provide them. The CBD prescribes that access to genetic resources is subject to national legislation. Accordingly, India after extensive consultative process had enacted Biological Diversity Act in 2002 for giving effect to the provisions of the CBD. India was one of the first few countries to have enacted such a legislation. However, in the near absence of user country measures, once the resource leaves the country providing the resources, there is no way to ensure compliance of ABS provisions in the country where it is used. Towards this, a protocol on access and benefit sharing has been negotiated under the aegis of CBD, and adopted by the tenth Conference of Parties (CoP-10) held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. India has participated actively and contributed meaningfully in the ABS negotiations. The objective of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS is fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

The Protocol significantly advances the objective of the Convention on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources by providing greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources including researchers and industry. By promoting the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and by strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use, the Protocol will create incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being. The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol is therefore of strategic importance.

India had signed the Protocol on 11th May 2011, and ratified it on 9th October, 2012. The Nagoya Protocol would be implemented at the national level through the Biological Diversity Act.

India, having hosted CoP-11 to the CBD in Hyderabad in October 2012, is currently the President of CoP till CoP-12 to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea in October 2014.

The Nagoya Protocol has received the required 50th instrument of ratification on 14th July 2014, and will thus enter into force on 90th day, i.e., 12th October 2014. The first Meeting of Parties of the Protocol will be held from 13-17 October, 2014 concurrently with CoP-12 in Pyeongchang.

Facilitating early entry into force of this landmark international treaty has been a priority of India as CoP President. Towards this, India has made significant efforts in the last 21 months through political and diplomatic channels. After assuming the charge of Minister, I have taken personal interest in the matter, and addressed the CBD meeting in Montreal via video on 16th June 2014. I had also made a statement at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi on 26th June 2014, urging countries to ratify the Protocol soon. I also met my counterparts of concerned countries for early ratification, on the sidelines of the Nairobi meeting.

Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by 51 Parties to the CBD is also a major step towards achieving the first of the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Target 16 that by 2015, the Nagoya Protocol is in force and operational), and that too more than a year before its target date, which is quite remarkable. The pivotal role played by India in achieving this remarkable feat once again showcases India's leadership in biodiversity in the global arena.

श्री राजेश रंजन (मधेपुरा): सभापति जी, बिहार में एक महिला के साथ बलात्कार हुआ है...(व्यवधान)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing would go on record except the submission of Shri Kaushal Kishore.

(Interruptions) अक्षुब्ध

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan came and stood on the floor near the Table.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You go back to your seat. You can raise it tomorrow. You have not given any notice.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You can raise it tomorrow. Nothing would go on record.

(Interruptions) â€/*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please go back to your seat. You can raise it tomorrow.

20.41 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan went back to his seat