

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

**RAJYA SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2364 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2014

Failure of Bio diversity Authority

2364. SHRI N.K. SINGH

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Bio-diversity Authority has failed to draw up a list of endangered medicinal plants; if not, the number of such plants and the steps taken by Government to protect such species;
- (b) the number of local bodies under which Bio-diversity Management Committees have been set up the time by when such Bio-diversity Committees are likely to be set up under all local bodies; and
- (c) the functions of such Bio-diversity Management Committees?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) Section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act empowers the Central Government in consultation with the concerned State Government to notify from time to time any species which are on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in the near future as threatened species, and prohibit or regulate their collection, and also to take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve those species. Accordingly, a State-wise list of such species, which includes medicinal plants, was got prepared and sent to the State Governments. Following responses received, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued notifications for 15 States and 1 Union Territory so far.

The Government has taken several steps to protect biodiversity, including medicinal plants. The Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), which is a Centre of Excellence in Medicinal Plant & Traditional Knowledge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a list of 335 Red Listed Medicinal Plant species.

(b)& (c) As per Section 41 of the Biological Diversity Act, every local body is required to constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC). So far, 33,348 BMCs have been constituted in 24 States. All States have been requested to establish BMCs at the local level.

As per Biological Diversity Rule 22, the main function of BMCs is to prepare People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) in consultation with local people. The Register shall contain comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use and traditional knowledge associated with them. The other function of BMC are to advise on any matter referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board or National Biodiversity Authority for granting approval, to maintain data about the local vairs and practitioners using the biological resources. As per Section 41 of the Biological Diversity Act, the BMC may levy charges by way of collection fees from any person for accessing or collecting any biological resource for commercial purposes for areas falling within its territorial jurisdiction.