

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 39
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

39. SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL (BAKABHAI):
SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANILBHAI PATEL:

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

- (a) the number of Biodiversity Heritage Sites notified as per Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002;
- (b) the details of the sites which are notified because of rich wealth of agro-diversity contained therein, as is the case with several pockets in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan for selecting and notifying more such sites to protect rich heritage of agro-diversity;
- (d) whether the Government has any schemes to support farmers who are engaged in seed conservation work; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a), (b) & (c) Biodiversity Heritage Site is a unique conservation approach recognised under the Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Biodiversity Heritage Sites have rich biodiversity with wild as well as domesticated species; high endemism; rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domesticated/cultivated species; fossil beds; cultural, ethical or aesthetic values for maintaining cultural diversity, with or without long human association with them.

As per Section 37 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 the State Government may, from time to time in consultation with the local bodies, notify in the Official Gazette, of areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

So far forty-four (44) Biodiversity Heritage Sites have been notified by sixteen (16) states. The details of these sites are at **Annexure**.

(d) & (e) The Government of India is creating awareness on conservation of plant

genetic resources including seeds of farmers' varieties and landraces through the schemes like Tribal Sub-Plan, North-Eastern Hill Region and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan. A total of 233 most potential varieties of different crops identified by farmers are being conserved through on-farm cultivation, value chain and marketing involving Self Help Groups and Farmer Producer Organizations (in seven states including Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh) by National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources - Indian Council for Agricultural Research, New Delhi.

Besides above, under section 39(1) (iv) of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFR) Act, 2001, the PPVFR Authority annually confers awards, rewards, and recognitions to farmers (s)/farming communities who are involved in the conservation of Plant Genetic Resources.

The Plant Genome Saviour Community award is awarded to five farming communities and each award amounts to Rs. 10.00 lakhs along with a citation. The Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Reward is awarded to ten farmers and each reward amounts to Rs. 1.50 lakhs. The Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Recognition is awarded to twenty farmers with Rs. 1.00 lakh each.

So far, 41 Plant Genome Saviour Community Awards, 67 Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Rewards, and 84 Plant Genome Saviour Farmer recognition were conferred.

Annexure

S. No.	Name of Biodiversity Heritage Site	Area (ha)	District & State
1.	Majuli River Island	87500	Majuli, Assam
2.	Borjuli Wild Rice Site	0.41	Sonitpur, Assam
3.	Hajong Tortoise Lake	526.78	Dima Hasao, Assam
4.	Purvatali Rai	0.73	North Goa, Goa
5.	Sacred Grove at Sural Bhatori Monastery	0.6	Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
6.	High Altitude Meadow, Hudan Bhatori	8.74	Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
7.	Birch-pine Forest Patch, Nain Gahar	12.22	Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh
8.	Nallur tamarind groves	21.85	Bengaluru, Karnataka
9.	Hogrekan	1015	Chikmagalur, Karnataka
10.	University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus	167	Bengaluru, Karnataka
11.	Ambaragudda	3857.17	Shimoga, Karnataka
12.	Asramam	57.33	Kollam, Karnataka
13.	Naro Hills	200	Satna, Madhya Pradesh
14.	Patalkot	8367.49	Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh
15.	Amarkantak	7681.5	Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh
16.	Glory of Allapallii	6	Gadchiroli
17.	Bambarde Myristica Swamps	2.59	Dodamarg, Maharashtra
18.	Ganeshkhind Garden	33.01	Pune, Maharashtra
19.	Landorkhori	8.08	Jalgaon, Maharashtra
20.	Schistura hiranyakeshi	2.11	Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
21.	Dialong Village	1135	Tamenglong, Manipur
22.	Khlaw Kur Syiem Kmielng	16.05	Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya
23.	Mandasaru	528	Kandhamal, Maharashtra
24.	Mahendragiri	4250	Gajapati, Maharashtra
25.	Gandhamardan Hill	18964	Bolnisi and Bargarh, Maharashtra
26.	Tungkyong Dho	0.0650	North Sikkim, Sikkim

27.	Arittapatti	193.215	Madurai, Tamil Nadu
28.	Ameenpur Lake	229.05	Sangareddy, Telangana
29.	Gharial Rehabilitation Centre	10	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
30.	Baramura waterfall	150	Khowai, Tripura
31.	Unakoti	40	Unakoti, Tripura
32.	Silachari Caves	100	Gomati, Tripura
33.	Debbari or Chabimura	215	Gomati, Tripura
34.	Betlingshib and its surroundings Tonglu	350	North district, Tripura
35.	Tonglu	230	Darjeeling, West Bengal
36.	Dhotrey	180	Darjeeling, West Bengal
37.	Chilkigarh Kanak Durga	22.62	Jhargram, West Bengal
38.	State Horticulture Research and Development Station	39.61	Nadia, West Bengal
39.	Char Balidanga	46.862	Nadia, West Bengal
40.	Amkhoi Wood Fossil Park	10 0.667	Birbhum, West Bengal
41.	Baneswar Shiva Dighi	0.667	Cooch behar. West Bengal
42.	Namthing Pokhari	4.819	Darjeeling, West Bengal
43.	Birampur-Baguran Jalpai	95.91	Purba Medinipur, West Bengal
44.	Haldir Char Island	4.73	Purba Medinipur, West Bengal
