

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:622
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
DAMAGE TO BIO-DIVERSITY
BHUPENDRASINH PRABHATSINH SOLANKI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether heavy damage is caused to bio-diversity in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to take any steps to prevent the same;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) Over the years, the overall India's ranking in the global biodiversity remains unchanged. However, some loss of biodiversity had been happening due to the spread of high yielding crop varieties, increasing urbanisation and industrialisation etc. In the case of aquatic biodiversity, some loss also had been happening due to over fishing, use of illegal method of fishing and water pollution from various industrial and urban activities.

(b) & (c): Government has taken several steps to contain or reduce damage to biodiversity. In agriculture, ex situ conservation efforts have been and are being undertaken in respect of plants, animals, fish and agriculturally important microorganisms under the aegis of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Department of Agricultural Research and Education. The National Bureaus of Plant, Animal, Fish and Agriculturally Important Microorganisms have been established with a mandate to undertake surveys, collections and ex situ conservation activities with specific emphasis to endangered species. The National Bureaus of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi is one of the largest such ex situ conservation facility in the world. Further, emphasis is also being laid through Mission Mode Programmes launched on collection and conservation of biodiversity of plants, animals and fish under the National Jai Vigyan Mission on Collection and Conservation of Plant Biodiversity under the National Agricultural Technology Project. In case of all other biodiversity, the in situ and ex situ conservation efforts have been made under the aegis of Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d) The question does not arise, Sir.