

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4682
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006
BIO SPHERE RESERVES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of areas declared as Bio-sphere Reserve (BR) in the country so far, State- wise and the benefits extended by the Union Government to those places;
- (b) whether there is a long pending demand to declare Agastyamalai range in the Western Ghats as Biosphere Reserve; and
- (c) if so ,the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) Fourteen areas have been designated as Biosphere Reserves in the country so far, of which 2 Biosphere Reserves span two states and one Biosphere Reserve spans three states. The state wise position is as follows: Assam(2), Arunachal Pradesh(1), Andaman and Nicobar(1), Chattisgarh(1), Kamataka(1), Kerala (2),Meghalaya(1), Madhya Pradesh(2), Orissa(1), Sikkim(1), West Bengal (1), Tamil Nadu(3), Uttaranchal(1). An amount of 22.18 crores has been released during 10th Five Year Plan (till March, 2006) to these states. The financial assistance is provided for components like alternate livelihood for local inhabitants, regeneration of degraded landscapes and development of minor infrastructure facilities etc.

(b) & (c) Agastyamalai range in Western Ghats located in Kerala and Tamil Nadu states was designated as Biosphere Reserve on 12th November 2001, and 3rd March, 05 respectively.