

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1706

ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004

PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY IN NORTH EASTERN REGION

Charenamei Shri Mani

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

- (a) whether the North Eastern Region has been identified as one of the biodiversity hot spots;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to protect the rich biodiversity;
- (c) the details of protected areas in North Eastern Region, State-wise;
- (d) whether most of the endangered animals are found outside the protected areas and are left unprotected;
- (e) if so, whether the Government has any plan for protecting them; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the funds provided for their protection ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) North Eastern region is part of one of the hot spots of the country namely Eastern Himalayas. This Ministry is implementing a number of schemes/programmes for conservation of the bio-diversity in this region. Some of the important schemes are Conservation and Management of Wetlands, Biosphere Reserves and Assistance to Botanic Gardens. Financial support is also provided to States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Elephant and Project Tiger.

(c) The State-wise details of protected areas in the North Eastern Region is at Annexure-I.

(d), (e) & (f) The natural habitat of endangered animals lie both within the legally designated Protected Areas and areas outside. These animals, both inside and outside the protected areas are safeguarded through legal, technical and financial support. An amount of Rs. 15.53 crores was released during 2003-04 for restoration of habitats, strengthening of surveillance machinery and mobility etc. in the North Eastern Region.