

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2330  
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007  
BIO DIVERSITY HERITAGE SITES  
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) Whether the Expert Committee of the National Bio-diversity Authority has formed guidelines for identifying, declaring and managing bio-diversity heritage sites in the country;
- (b) If so, whether the National Bio-diversity Authority has issued instructions to the States to form Bio-diversity Management Committees to identify the Bio-diversity heritage sites;
- (c) If so, the response of the State Government thereto; and
- (d) The method adopted by the National Bio-diversity Authority to declare a place as a heritage site?

**Answer**

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

- (a) The National Biodiversity Authority has constituted an Expert Committee to prepare guidelines for identifying Biodiversity Heritage sites in the country. The report of the Committee is in process of being finalized.
- (b) Yes sir,
- (c) So far, 18 states have formed State Biodiversity Boards and 6 states namely Goa, Karnataka, Sikkim, West Bengal, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh are in the process of formation of Biodiversity Management Committees.
- (d) As per Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the State Governments are empowered to notify Biodiversity Heritage sites in consultation with the local Biodiversity Management committees. The Guidelines being prepared by the Expert Committee appointed by the National Biodiversity Authority are to help the State Governments in the process.