

Network; designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems; conservation of ecologically fragile areas such as mangroves, wetlands and coral reefs; implementing species-oriented conservation programmes; ex-situ conservation through setting up of botanic gardens, zoos and gene banks; and enactment of the Biological Diversity Act in 2002, under which a National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards have been set up for implementing the provisions of the Act.

The NBA is a body corporate established in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 8 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, at Chennai *w.e.f.* 1st October, 2003. It is an autonomous, statutory and regulatory organization to implement the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

(b) to (d) Some of the measures taken towards implementation of the Biological Diversity Act include: formation of State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) in 25 States, declaration of three Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS), notification of threatened species which are on the verge of extinction for 13 States (Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa, Meghalaya, Goa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Tripura), establishment of 31665 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and preparation of 419 People's Biodiversity Registers in six States (Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal).

The Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board established under Section 22(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 has undertaken several measures towards implementation of the Biological Diversity Act which include: Preparation of 15 Biodiversity Management Committees in 10 districts, identification of one Biodiversity Heritage Site and preparation of People's Biodiversity Registers.

So far, an amount of Rs. 1.84 crore has been provided by the NBA to SBBs for implementation of the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act.

Environmental clearance for allocation of coal block to GMDC

2018. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had allocated Morga-II Coal Block to Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDC) in Chhattisgarh in August, 2006;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Chhattisgarh has requested the Central Government for forest clearance for prospecting licence over forest area measuring 1987.912 hectare land of Morga-II Coal Block allocated to GMDC;

(c) whether the forest clearance has been accorded to the State Government; and

(d) if not, by when the clearance is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A proposal for prospecting over 1987.912 ha of forestland of Morgal-II coal block, allotted by the Ministry of Coal to M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited in Katghora Forest Division in Korba district of Chhattisgarh, was received in the Ministry in December, 2009.

(c) and (d) So far, forest clearance to Morgal-II coal block has not been granted as the coal block falls in Hasdeo-Arand Coalfield, which has been identified as Category 'A' (No-Go areas) consequent to the joint exercise undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Coal. The inability of the Central Government to accord permission for prospecting of coal in this coal block, as decided by the Central Government, has been conveyed to the State Government.

Green Gold Sector in North Eastern Region

2019. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken for holistic growth of Green Gold Sector in India specially in North Eastern Region;

(b) whether Government is aware of the facts that to popularise Green Gold Sector there is need to carry out institutional reform and restructuring;

(c) if so, the steps taken for the same;

(d) whether the Ministry would consider a national policy for the same and setting up a National Development Board for Green Gold; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Bamboo is referred to as Green Gold in India especially in North Eastern Region. For the development of Bamboo sector, a numbers of steps have been taken such as establishment of National Bamboo Mission under the Ministry of Agriculture, National Mission for Bamboo applications under the Ministry of Science and Technology, etc. The Mission approach for the development of this sector is a step toward the institutional reforms. Bamboo plantation is one of the plantation model for afforestation under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry.

In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had also implemented the Central Sponsored Scheme named as "Preparedness for meeting challenges of bamboo flowering and improving management of bamboo forests".

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Ministry of Environment and Forests.