

Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued notifications for 15 States and 1 Union Territory so far.

The Government has taken several steps to protect biodiversity, including medicinal plants. The Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), which is a Centre of Excellence in Medicinal Plant & Traditional Knowledge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a list of 335 Red Listed Medicinal Plant species.

(b) and (c) As per Section 41 of the Biological Diversity Act, every local body is required to constitute a Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC). So far, 33,348 BMCs have been constituted in 24 States. All States have been requested to establish BMCs at the local level.

As per Biological Diversity Rule 22, the main function of BMCs is to prepare People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) in consultation with local people. The Register shall contain comprehensive information on availability and knowledge of local biological resources, their medicinal or any other use and traditional knowledge associated with them. The other function of BMC are to advise on any matter referred to it by the State Biodiversity Board or National Biodiversity Authority for granting approval, to maintain data about the local vendors and practitioners using the biological resources. As per Section 41 of the Biological Diversity Act, the BMC may levy charges by way of collection fees from any person for accessing or collecting any biological resource for commercial purposes for areas falling within its territorial jurisdiction.

Environmental reforms regarding emission cut

2365. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms have been laid down for environmental reforms regarding emission cut in the country; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government has received reports of violation of such norms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to strengthen the environmental norms?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) India being a Non-Annex I country party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) does not have any legally binding commitment or target to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, norms for greenhouse gas emission cut have not been laid down in India.

India has voluntarily pledged in the UNFCCC that it will endeavour to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 20-25% by 2020 in comparison to 2005 level. We are taking several domestic initiatives to address climate change and to chart out a low carbon growth strategy for inclusive growth. The National Action Plan on Climate Change has eight National Missions including inter alia the National Solar Mission, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency and National Mission on Sustainable Habitat which envisage containing the greenhouse gas emissions in the country.

Forests damaged in Uttarakhand

†2366. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has made any assessment of forests damaged in Uttarakhand State from devastating floods on 16th and 17th June, 2013;

(b) if so, the percentage of forests damaged therein and district-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has disbursed any funds to implement a scheme to compensate damage caused to forests in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) As per the report received from the Uttarakhand Forest Department, details of forests damaged in different forest divisions in the devastating floods on 16th and 17th June, 2013 are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) No funds have been disbursed to implement a scheme to compensate damage caused to forests in the State. However, the details of funds released to the State of Uttarakhand under various schemes of the Ministry in the year 2013-14 are as follows:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.