

**New varieties of plants**

2750.DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Botanical Survey of India has discovered certain new varieties of plants in the recent past and if so, the details thereof, region-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure strict compliance of the protocols relating to commercial utilisation of biological resources and protect the existing bio-diversity from human factors like urbanisation, overgrazing and deforestation etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Yes, Botanical Survey of India (BSI) under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been bringing out the series on Plant Discoveries for the eight consecutive years highlighting new discoveries and new distributional records of plants.

During the year 2014 the scientists of BSI discovered 1 new genus, 52 new species and 10 new subspecies/varieties of plants as new to science and discovered 2 genera, 47 species and 2 subspecies as new records for India. Besides 16 new trees and 13 new climbers, wild germplasm of many economically important and ornamental plants such as Orchids (10 species) Musa (4 new species and 5 new varieties), Syzygium (4 species), Impatiens (1 species) Zingiber (1 species), Amomum (1 species), Curcuma (1 species), Crinum (1 species) have been discovered during 2014.

(b) BSI and Zoological Survey of India(ZSI), as mandated, have been carrying out survey, documentation and conservation of wild plant and faunal diversity including traditional knowledge associated with it in different parts of the country at National, Regional, State and Ecosystem level. BSI has also been conducting floristic surveys for threat (anthropogenic/ natural) assessment and inventorying of threatened species including medicinal plants.

Conservation oriented legislations viz. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Biological Diversity Act, 2002, etc. have been enacted to ensure protection of threatened species and their habitats. Under the provisions of Section 38 of the National Biodiversity Act, 2002, the species are identified state-wise; MoEF&CC has already issued notifications for 14 states to this effect. Further, MoEF&CC is in the process of including some prioritised endangered plants, including some that are from the Himalaya, in the relevant Schedule of Wildlife (Protection) Act, (1972) to accord them legal protection.

As per the Section 3 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, any foreign individual or entity has to obtain prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for commercial utilization of the India's biological resources and /or associated knowledge. Further, any Indian Individual or entity has to obtain prior approval of the concerned State Biodiversity Boards for accessing the biological resources for commercial utilization.

Legal protection has been provided to endangered wild animals and plants against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which has been amended and made more stringent by enhancing the punishment in cases of offences.

#### **Review of existing legal framework for e-waste**

2751. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created any legislative and enforcement mechanism to prevent India from becoming a dumping ground of e-waste for developed nations, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to review the existing legal framework and put in place a necessary policy framework and legal architecture together with effective implementation machinery in order to meet the challenges of e-waste management in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Import and export of e-waste is regulated under the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008. As per the Rules, no import of the hazardous wastes including e-waste from any country to India for disposal is permitted. A person intending to import e-waste and second hand electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) for re-use purpose shall seek permission of this Ministry prior to import. No permission for import of e-waste in the country has been granted by this Ministry under the Rules in the last four years. The import applications for second hand EEE are evaluated on case to case basis and permission is granted only with approval competent authority.

(b) e-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 have been notified for effective management of e-waste. For better management of electronic waste, Ministry has published draft e-Waste (Management) Rules, 2015 inviting public comments and suggestions. The provisions of this draft Rules include expanding producers'