

- (1) A 'National Adaptation Fund' to support adaptation actions to combat the challenges of climate change in India with an allocation of ₹ 150 Crores for 2015-16.
- (2) National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) with the objective to finance clean energy, clean environment initiatives, and to fund research in the area of clean energy and environment.

Impact of climate change on flora and fauna

1146. PROF M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is planning to deploy the Zoological Survey of India to study the effect of climate change on flora and fauna in forests and heritage sites, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the list of places, State-wise, where the survey will be taking place;
- (c) whether the Ministry is planning to organize a committee of members who will analyse and implement the results of the survey, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the plan of Ministry to further protect the interest of flora and fauna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has been collecting data on spatial distribution of fauna of India since its inception in 1916. Recently ZSI has set up permanent monitoring plots in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to monitor coral reefs and in Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve to monitor mangroves. The results obtained from the faunal surveys of ZSI and permanent monitoring plots are utilised for studying various environmental aspects. No specific studies on impact of climate change have been undertaken by ZSI. However, under the Centre of Excellence Scheme of Ministry, the Centre for Ecological Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, has been studying the effect of climate change on flora and fauna in Nilgiri Biosphere reserve since 1998 by setting up a permanent monitoring plot in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.

The Ministry has recently approved a multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary study covering 8 sites under a national level programme 'Long Term Ecological Observatories', to monitor the impact of climate change on flora and fauna in all the representative biomes of the country.

A number of new floral and faunal species are being discovered in India. As per survey records of Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India, on

an average 27 new species and genera of flora and 90 new species of fauna are discovered every year.

(d) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was enacted with the objectives of conservation of biological resources, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

As per the Biological Diversity Act, the State Governments are required to notify the areas of biodiversity importance as heritage sites. The Act empowers the Central Government in consultation with the concerned State Government to notify from time to time any species which are on the verge of extinction or likely to become extinct in the near future as threatened species, and prohibit or regulate their collection, and also to take appropriate steps to rehabilitate and preserve those species.

Government of India has also established a country-wide protected area network (678 Protected Areas including 102 National Parks, 515 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 4 Community Reserves and 57 Conservation Reserves in different biogeographic regions) which primarily covers habitats of threatened flora and fauna.

Declaration of eco-sensitive zone in Gujarat

1147. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 12 proposals for declaring Eco-Sensitive Zone around Sanctuaries and National Parks submitted by State Government of Gujarat are pending with the Ministry; and

(b) if so, by when approval to these proposals is likely to be accorded by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has received proposals for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around 18 National Parks and Sanctuaries in Gujarat. From amongst these, Eco-Sensitive Zones around seven National Parks and Sanctuaries have been notified. In respect of three proposals, viz., Balaram Ambaji Sanctuary, Rampara Sanctuary, and Jessor Sanctuary, the State Government has been requested to provide certain essential documents. The Ministry has already put the remaining eight proposals in process. However, as declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries involves consultation with States besides seeking comments from the public, after issuing a preliminary notification giving 60 days for this purpose, no specific time-frame can be indicated for issue of final notification.