

Reduction in recorded plant species

1625. DR. R LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's share in the total recorded plant species in the world has reduced drastically over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of current share of country's recorded plant species in the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The flora of India is both rich and diverse due to wide range of variations in climate, topography, altitude and ecological habitats. Owing to this richness and diversity of flora, India ranks among the top ten species rich nations in the world.

(c) India has four biodiversity hotspots viz. Eastern Himalaya, Indo-Burma (NE-India), Western Ghats (and Sri Lanka) and Sundaland (Nicobar Island). In the present state of Botanical Survey of India's knowledge, India has about 47791 species of plants, which is approximately 11.4% of the total recorded plant species of the world. Every year more than hundred species are additionally discovered.

Death of wild animals by speeding trains

1626. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of elephants and other wild animals run over by trains running between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during 2015;
- (b) the details of measures taken by Government to prevent such accidental deaths of wild animals;
- (c) whether Government is contemplating change of railway routes from the national corridors of wild elephants; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Number of elephants and other wild animals run over by trains in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during 2015 are given below.