

Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002

*195. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BD Act) provides for preservation of biological diversity in India and a mechanism for equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of traditional biological resources and knowledge;

(b) whether the National Biodiversity Authority, a statutory autonomous body, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was established to implement the provisions under the Act;

(c) number of States that are implementing this Act; and

(d) number of farmers across India benefited by BD Act and details of penal actions, if any, taken in the cases of non-implementation of benefit sharing?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is aimed towards conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resource and associated traditional knowledge. The Act is implemented through a three-tiered institutional structure: National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local body level.

(b) National Biodiversity Authority is a statutory autonomous body of the Ministry established under Section 8 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for implementation of the provisions under the Act.

(c) All the 29 States have established State Biodiversity Boards, as per Section 22 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Twenty-six State Biodiversity Boards have notified the State specific Rules in accordance with Section 63 of the Biological Diversity Act for implementation of the Act in their States.

(d) As per Section 2(a) of the Act, benefit claimers are the conservers of biological resources and their by-products, creators and holders of knowledge and information relating to the use of such biological resources, innovations and practices associated with such use and application (which would include farmers also).

As per the available information, approximately ₹ 80 crores have been realised by NBA and approximately ₹ 14 crores by SBBs by way of access and benefit sharing, to be used for purposes such as channelling benefits to benefit claimers,

conservation and promotion of biological resources, development of areas from where such biological resources or knowledge associated thereto has been accessed, and socio-economic development of areas such areas in consultation with the local bodies concerned.

For non-compliance of the provisions of the Act, NBA has filed a criminal complaint before the Court of Hon'ble Judicial Magistrate First Class, Dharwad, Karnataka against University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and others on 24.12.2012 in C.C.No 579/2012. The case is sub judice before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India *vide* Crl Appeal No. 1720/15 and 1721/15.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Staff shortage in ordnance factories

1921. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is acute shortage of staff in ordnance factories affecting manufacturing schedules, research and development of new products and quality control;

(b) whether Government is aware that as of January 17 ordnance factories collectively have around 70,810 technical staff which is 41 per cent less than the 1.2 lakh sanctioned posts and there is shortage of around 40 per cent in "A" grade officers; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to fill-up the vacant posts in the interests of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): (a) No, Sir. There is no shortage of staff in Ordnance Factories.

(b) and (c) Occurrence of vacancies and their filling up is a continuous and on-going process. Vacancies are filled up from time to time on need basis as per the existing procedure/rules.

Sensitive data leak at Brah Mos

1922. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that senior system engineer at Brah Mos Aerospace (P) Ltd.; in Nagpur was arrested for allegedly leaking sensitive data to ISI and if so, the details thereof; and