

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1484
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

Protection of critically endangered plants

1484. SHRI JAGGESH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the critically endangered plant *Lepidagathis clavata* has been recently rediscovered in the Western Ghats;
- (b) whether Government has any plan to protect the rocky plateau habitats of Western Ghats where the said plant is found;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to support research and long-term monitoring of rare and critically endangered plant species; and
- (d) whether Government, in coordination with the State Governments, proposes to involve local communities in conservation efforts to protect such species and preserve biodiversity in the Western Ghats and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) and (b) Researchers from Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Western Regional Centre (WRC) Pune have located *Lepidagathis clavata* from four (4) localities in the Western Ghats. BSI, WRC, Pune is collecting the germplasm and restoring it in safe habitats. Germination of this species has been successfully done at its experimental garden and plant showed good response. Furthermore, the population study and ecological studies have also been carried out. Ex-situ conservation of endemic herbaceous flora is in progress and the said species is one of the targeted species for conservation.

(c) and (d) BSI is working on various aspects of monitoring, spread, ecology, IUCN assessment of rare and critically endangered plant species in Western Ghats including Cryptogams and Phanerogams. Several projects are running at various centres of BSI to conserve the threatened flora of each phytogeographic region.

BSI runs conservation programs and capacity building programs for sustainable use of biodiversity. In 2025 BSI, WRC Pune, in association with State Biodiversity Board and MoEF&CC, conducted program on Rules & Regulation for biodiversity use, its conservation and sustainable utilization at Gadchiroli. BSI also actively contributes in awareness programs towards conservation of local biodiversity. BSI also organizes environmental events like Earth Day, Vasundhara din, Environmental day, Plantation drive, Biodiversity Day in coordination with local schools, organizations, institutes and bodies. BSI also publishes booklet, books,

posters and display boards for public on various occasions to conserve threatened flora of the region.

Further, under the Biodiversity Act, Biodiversity Management Committees are constituted at every local body at the Gram Panchayat level in rural areas and Nagar Panchayat level in urban areas including that in Wester Ghats. The National Biodiversity Authority initiated the programme of documenting the biological resources and associated knowledge for its conservation at the village level in the form of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR). These registers contain comprehensive information related to biodiversity, traditional knowledge, use of bio resources and is a dynamic document. This initiative involves local communities at the grass root level for cooperation in conservation efforts. PBRs are particularly important for Wester Ghats region in view of its high biodiversity and large number of endemic species.
