

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1487
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

Programme for allowing wildlife enthusiasts to venture into core forest areas

1487. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government is aware that the West Bengal Government has launched a project 'Bonya Pran Sathi' (Honorary Wildlife Volunteer Service Programme) that offers wildlife enthusiasts to venture into core forest areas especially in North Bengal and Sundarbans to get the real life experience of dealing with animals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government is ready to take up this unique idea to garner public support for wildlife conservation and implement it in different parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The project 'Bonya Pran Sathi' (Honorary Wildlife Volunteer Service Programme) launched by the State Government of West Bengal is aimed to provide an opportunity to the self sustained adult professionals of any stream, students, others to serve in Protected Areas of West Bengal to fulfil the passion for wildlife conservation. The selection of the individual for this programme is done by the Committee constituted by the Forest Department of the State. The trained 'Bonya Pran Sathi' provides voluntary service in any forest area/Protected Area of West Bengal for 7 to 15 days in a year.
- (c), (d) and (e) Conservation of wildlife and its habitats is the mandate of the concerned State Governments and it is for the State Governments to take up the project launched by the State Government of West Bengal and implement in their respective states. Presently, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Ministry for implementation of such project in the states.
