

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1788
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022

Migration of Great Indian Bustard

1788. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether Great Indian Bustard birds are migrating due to the shrinking of their habitat in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps Government will take to save this endangered species from migration?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a), (b) and (c) Great Indian Bustard is a migratory species. The Ministry has taken various steps for conservation and protection of Great Indian Bustard in the country. Some of the measures taken for conservation of Great Indian Bustard are as follows:
- i. The Great Indian Bustard is listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according it the highest degree of legal protection from hunting.
 - ii. Based on the proposal from India, Great Indian Bustard has been included in Appendix I of Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.
 - iii. The species has been identified for conservation efforts under the component 'Species Recovery Programme' of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - Development of Wildlife Habitat. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the scheme for providing better protection to Great Indian Bustard and its habitat.
 - iv. The Ministry has taken initiative for conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard in collaboration with Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra Forest Departments and technical support from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The Ministry has sanctioned an outlay of Rs. 33.85 crores for the duration of seven years for the programme titled 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-an integrated approach'. The objective of this programme is to build up

captive population of Great Indian Bustard and to release the chicks in the wild for increasing the population and also to promote in-situ conservation of the species.

- v. A Conservation Breeding Centre at Ramdeora and a satellite conservation breeding facility with incubator, hatcher, chick rearing and housing for captive birds has been established at Sam in Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan. A total of twenty-three (23) GIB chicks, artificially hatched from the eggs collected from the wild are being reared in these conservation breeding facilities.
- vi. Important habitats of Great Indian Bustards are designated as National Parks/ Sanctuaries for their better protection.
