

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1976
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

Integrated development of wildlife habitats

1976. Dr. SIKANDER KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has given approval to continue the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) for the 15th Finance Commission cycle;
- (b) whether International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) for species-level identification;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to generate employment through direct engagement in conservation activities in Himachal Pradesh; and
- (d) whether IDWH has been effective in terms of protecting critically endangered species from extinction since the inception of the scheme in Himachal Pradesh?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) The Government of India has approved the continuance of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) for the 15th Finance Commission cycle.
- (b) This does not come under the purview of this Ministry.
- (c) The Ministry has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 7.66 cr for conservation of wildlife and its habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme – Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH) during the 2024-25 for Himachal Pradesh. The activities supported under the scheme also includes deployment of watchers for anti-poaching, fire protection, etc.
- (d) The Ministry provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme – Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats wherein 22 species have been identified for their conservation under the Species Recovery Programme. No report regarding extinction of critically endangered species has been received from the State of Himachal Pradesh since the inception of the CSS-IDWH.
