

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1979
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

Conservation status of great Indian bustard

1979. SMT RANJEET RANJAN:

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

- (a) the details of funds approved for the next phase of Bustard Recovery Programme from 2024 to 2029;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any assessment of the programme's effectiveness in protecting great Indian bustard populations;
- (c) the specific measures planned under new phase to address the critical decline in species numbers;
- (d) whether any international collaboration is being pursued for conservation expertise; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has approved an amount of Rs 77.05 Cr for a period of five years for the Conservation Action Plan for the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) and Lesser Florican in 2024.
- (b) A programme titled, 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of the Great Indian Bustard – an Integrated Approach' was sanctioned with the funding support from the CAMPA in 2016 with an outlay of Rs. 33.85 crores. The Programme has achieved success in:
 - i. Establishing conservation breeding facilities for GIB at Sam and Ramdeora, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
 - ii. Securing partial founder population of GIB.
 - iii. Commencing captive breeding of GIB from the founder population in Conservation Breeding Centre.
 - iv. Advancing ecological knowledge on GIB with the aid of range-wide surveys, telemetry, intensive population, behavioural, and habitat monitoring, and molecular research.
 - v. Using this information and advocacy to guide actions for habitat improvement.

- (c) The Conservation Action Plan for the Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican aims at ex-situ and in-situ conservation for Great Indian Bustard and lesser florican. The action plan provides for GIB survey, development and implementation of Artificial Insemination techniques, habitat improvement, measures for protection from predators, community participation in conservation and awareness generation, Telemetry & tracking of wild populations etc.
- (d) and (e) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Wildlife Institute of India and the International Fund for Houbara Conservation, United Arab Emirates to undertake collaborative work aimed at the conservation of the Great Indian Bustard.
