

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 301
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025

Conservation and protection of bird species in the country

301*. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:

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

- (a) whether recent national or regional surveys on native and migratory bird populations have been conducted and the key findings;
- (b) whether populations of species like house sparrows, vultures and migratory waterbirds have declined, with reasons identified;
- (c) the measures taken to conserve threatened or endangered bird species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and related action plans; and
- (d) whether awareness and community participation programmes have been launched to promote bird conservation, especially in urban and agricultural areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *301 REGARDING 'CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF BIRD SPECIES IN THE COUNTRY' BY SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA, DUE FOR REPLY ON 21.08.2025

(a) to (d) The protection and management of wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry undertakes population estimation of flagship species like Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard and Asian Elephant. Population assessments are also carried out by the respective States/Union Territories for many other wild animals including birds, and these are not collated in the Ministry. However, as per information available in the Ministry, the population of three species of vultures, namely, *Gyps indicus*, *Gyps bengalensis* and *Gyps tenuirostris*, had declined drastically during the 1990s.

The important measures to protect wildlife, including birds in the country are as follows:

- (i) Species of wild animals including birds are listed in the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them protection from hunting.
- (ii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 lists 208 species of birds in Schedule I, including Black Necked Crane, Great Indian Bustard, Bar Headed Geese, Vultures, etc. according them highest degree of protection.
- (iii) Several important habitats of birds species have been declared as Protected Areas.
- (iv) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for protection and management of wildlife and development of its habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'.
- (v) A specific component of 'Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is included in the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on 24 critically endangered species including Bustards, Edible nest Swiftlets, Nicobar Megapode, Jerdon's Courser and Vultures.
- (vi) The Ministry has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) rules, 2017, for better protection of wetlands in the country.
- (vii) Several steps are being taken to conserve the Great Indian Bustards (GIB) such as conservation breeding, restoration and scientific management of grasslands, removal of invasive alien species, fire prevention measures, installation and maintenance of predator proof fencing, community engagement etc.
- (viii) The Government of India has restricted the packaging of multi-dose vial of Diclofenac to single dose for human use in July, 2015.

- (ix) The Government of India has prohibited the manufacture, sale and distribution of Ketoprofen, Aceclofenac and Nimesulide for veterinary use.
- (x) Eight Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres have been set up across India.
- (xi) An Action Plan for Vulture Conservation was launched by the Ministry in November, 2020.
- (xii) India is a signatory to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- (xiii) Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) around many National Parks and Sanctuaries have been notified under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to further strengthen conservation of wildlife, including migratory birds.
- (xiv) Eco Development and awareness activities are undertaken by the States Governments /Union Territory administrations involving local communities in wildlife conservation, including birds.
