

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2149**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

**Long-Billed Bush Warbler**

2149. SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether long-billed bush warbler(*Locustella major*), a rare and elusive bird species seen recently by a team of rare bird researchers after a gap of 46 years in Ladakhs's Suru Valley as part of a mission to find county's "long lost birds", if so, details thereof;
- (b) the ecological significance of sighting of long-billed bush warbler in the context of biodiversity conservation and habitat assessment in country;
- (c) whether Government has initiated/proposes to initiate any studies or conservation measures or programmes for near threatened birds species like long-billed bush warbler; and
- (d) if so, the details and steps taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d) As informed by the Union Territory Administration of Ladakh, the Long Billed Bush Warbler has been reported in Sankoo Suru Valley. The Long Billed Bush Warbler is a species, primarily dependent on undisturbed grasslands and scrub habitats and its sighting reflects the ecological integrity of such habitats.

Long Billed Bush Warbler (*Locustella major*) is listed in Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, providing them protection under the Act. The important measures taken for conservation of birds including Long Billed Bush Warbler are as follows:

- (i) Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- (ii) The Ministry has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) rules, 2017, for better protection of wetlands in the country.
- (iii) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for conservation and management of wildlife and development of its habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'.
- (iv) 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 identified 24 critically endangered species including Bustards, Edible nest Swiftlets, Nicobar Megapode, Jerdon's Courser and Vultures.
- (v) The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations undertake scientific research/assessments on wildlife species.

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