

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 538
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

Protection of biodiversity and endangered species

538 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has assessed the current rate of biodiversity loss and the threats faced by endangered and endemic species in the country;
- (b) the major reasons identified for habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to protect ecologically sensitive areas and threatened species; and
- (d) whether Government plans to strengthen community-based conservation and anti-poaching measures?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Management of forest, wildlife and its habitats is primarily the responsibility of the respective States/Union Territories. Protection to biodiversity is accorded under various Acts including the Indian Forest Act, 1927, *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980*, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The concerted actions by the Government in protection of wildlife and its habitat has shown increase in population of wild animals like tigers, leopards etc. Forest fires, natural disasters, climate change are contributing factors that affects wildlife habitat. Further the straying of wild animals from their natural habitats to human habitations due to easy availability of fodder/prey contribute to negative interactions between humans and wild animals.

The following are the important steps taken by the Government to protection of wildlife including community based conservation:

- (i) A network of Protected Areas have been created in the country for protection of wildlife and its habitats. These Protected Areas also include Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves.
- (ii) Rare and endangered species of animals have been listed in the Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.

- (iii) Special programmes like 'Project Tiger', 'Project Elephant', 'Project Lion', 'Project Snow Leopard', 'Project Dolphin', 'Project Cheetah', 'Project Great Indian Bustard', have been undertaken for their conservation.
- (iv) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments /UT Administrations for management of wildlife and development of its habitat under the Centrally sponsored schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger & Elephant'. It includes strengthening of anti-poaching activities.
- (v) A specific component of 'Recovery programme for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on identified 24 critically endangered species.
- (vi) Eco Development activities are undertaken by the States Governments /UT administrations involving local communities in wildlife conservation.
- (vii) Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (viii) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various agencies and State Governments to combat organized wildlife crime.
- (ix) Technology like Camera traps, drones, wireless, e-surveillance, etc. are used for monitoring of wild animals, detecting illegal intrusions, early warning system in relaying information to quick reaction teams in the field for managing human wildlife conflict.
- (x) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 provides for constitution of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) for conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity associated traditional knowledge in the form of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR). The Act also provides for notification of the areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity heritage sites by the States/ UTs.
