

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1872
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2017

Conservation of Endangered Species

1872. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:

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

- (a) whether the number of birds and animals under endangered category is decreasing rapidly and if so, the details thereof during the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any initiative to conduct a census of endangered species of birds and animals, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to monitor and protect the endangered species of birds and animals, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a) As per the information available including by way of census, there are no reports indicating decrease in number of birds and animals under endangered category in the country. On the other hand, the population of several species like lion, tiger, elephant and rhinoceros is on the rise.
- (b) Census of major flagship species is undertaken at the State-level by the respective State/Union Territory Governments periodically. However census of tiger and elephant is undertaken at the national level once every four and five years respectively. State-wise estimated population of tigers, elephants, rhino and lions, as per the latest census available with the Ministry, is given in the **Annexure IA, IB and IC**.
- (c) Initiatives taken to monitor and protect the endangered species of birds and animals include:
 - i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - ii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life

(Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.

- iii. Special programmes like 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' have been launched for conservation of these endangered species and their habitats.
- iv. A specific component of "Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats" is provided in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on selected critically endangered species.
- v. In addition to provision of stringent punishment for the offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
- vi. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for providing better protection to wildlife including endangered species and improvement of its habitat.
- vii. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- viii. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

ANNEXURE-I A

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1872 REGARDING 'CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES' BY SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI DUE FOR REPLY ON 14.3.2017.

**Details of tiger estimation pertaining to tiger landscapes in the country,
for the year 2014**

State	2014
<i>Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex</i>	
Uttarakhand	340
Uttar Pradesh	117
Bihar	28
Shivalik Gangetic	485 (427-543)
<i>Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex</i>	
Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana)	68
Chhattisgarh	46
Madhya Pradesh	308
Maharashtra	190
Odisha	28
Rajasthan	45
Jharkhand	3+
Central India	688 (596-780)
<i>Western Ghats Landscape Complex</i>	
Karnataka	406
Kerala	136
Tamil Nadu	229
Goa	5
Western Ghats	776 (685-861)
<i>North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains</i>	
Assam	167
Arunachal Pradesh	28*
Mizoram	3+
North West Bengal	3
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	201 (174-212)
<i>Sunderbans</i>	76 (92-96)
TOTAL	2226 (1945-2491)

+ From scat DNA

* From camera trap data and scat DNA

ANNEXURE-I B

Population of wild elephants

REGION	STATE	2012
North-East	Arunachal Pradesh	890
	Assam	5620
	Meghalaya	1811*
	Nagaland	212
	Mizoram	-
	Tripura	59
	West Bengal (North)	647
Total for North-East		9239
East	West Bengal (South)	#
	Jharkhand	688
	Orissa	1930
	Chhattisgarh	247
Total for East		2865
North	Uttarakhand	1346*
	Uttar Pradesh	291
Total for North		1637
South	Tamil Nadu	4015
	Karnataka	5648-6488
	Kerala	5942-6422
	Andhra Pradesh	41
	Maharashtra	4
	Total for South	
GRAND TOTAL		29391-30711

* Meghalaya and Uttarakhand has not conducted elephant census after 2007. Therefore, the figure of 2007 has been maintained for 2012 as well.

The figure for North and South Bengals are combined.

ANNEXURE-I C

Population of Rhinoceros as reported by States

Name of state	No. of rhinoceros (Year of Census)
Assam	2624 (2015)
Uttar Pradesh	34
West Bengal	255 (2015)

**Population of lion as reported by State Government
of Gujarat**

Name of state	No. of lion (Year of Census)
Gujarat	523 (2015)
