

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2052
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.12.2017

Wildlife Diversity

2052. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to incentivize State Governments to preserve and protect State birds and animals to promote wildlife diversity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to preserve and protect wildlife diversity during the three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) and (b) There is no specific plan to incentivize the State Governments to preserve and protect State birds and animals to promote wildlife diversity. Selection of State bird, animal is the mandate of the concerned State Government. The Ministry provides financial assistance under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for protection and conservation of wildlife diversity which includes State birds and animals as per the financial assistance sought by the State Government in the form of Annual Plan of Operation. (APO).
- (c) The steps taken by the Government to preserve and protect wildlife diversity includes:
 - i. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
 - ii. Increase in Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, 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. Enhanced financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant', for providing better protection to wildlife, and improvement of habitat.
- iv. The Ministry has taken up the initiative for conservation breeding of the critically endangered species, like Asiatic Lion, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphins, Manipur Brow Antler Deer, Vultures, etc. under the Endangered Species Recovery Programme Scheme.
- v. The local communities are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities who help the forest department in protection of wildlife.
- vi. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau activities have been intensified to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles, and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
