

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3124**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.01.2018

**Invasive Animal Species**

3124. PROF. SAUGATA ROY:

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

- (a) whether the Zoological Survey of India compiles list of alien invasive animal species;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken to check attack on of such species on biodiversity of the country;
- (d) whether the Government has noticed that certain types of invasive fish species are destroying fish populations in the wetlands of Kolkata; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to protect the fish population of wetlands of Kolkata?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Yes Madam, the ZSI under the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India has listed 157 animal species including 99 marine species as invasive. This includes 31 species of insects, 03 species of molluscs, 19 species of freshwater fishes, 01 species of reptile, 02 species of birds and 02 species of mammals.

(c) As per the published sources of information and ZSI report (Raut and Ghose, 1984, Technical Monograph No.11, ZSI), the Giant African Snail (*Achatinafulica*) has been reported in different parts of the country as one of the invasive species. ZSI has published a monograph on pestiferous land snails of India in which information on the African Giant Snail has been covered extensively (Raut and Ghose, 1984, Technical Monograph No.11, ZSI). The various methods suggested for checking the ever increasing snail population include (i) Chemical control (by using Aromax, Calcium arcenata, Common salt, Copper sulphate, D.D.T., Diazinon, Endrin, Fenitrothion, Metaldehyde, Mixture of 2, 4-D and 2,4,5-T (2:1), Sevin and Simazine), (ii) Biological control (introduction of native species of Helminths, Nematodes, Arthropods, Millipedes, Mollusca, Birds Mammals), (iii) Physical control (by Handpicking method) and (iv) Miscellaneous (Destruction of garbage and house refuse, Cleaning of the gardens, Barriers, Culture of *Aeromonas* bacterium and introduction as virulent strain).

(d) & (e) Yes Madam, as per the report of Wetlands International-South Asia, the presence of invasive exotic fish species of catfish *Clariusguripinus* and *Pangasiussutchi* in East Kolkata wetland in Kolkata poses great threat to the native diversity. The Zoological Survey of India has recorded five Alien species in the wetlands of Kolkata, viz., *Cyprinus carpio* (Common carp),

Oreochromis niloticus (Nile tilapia), Pangasianodon hypophthalmus (Suchipangas), Clarias gariepinus (African catfish) and Pterygoplichthys pardalis (Amazon sailfin catfish). One of the major threats to the fish culture also comes from an invasive species of fish of the genus of the catfish family; the Crocodile fish (Cymbacephalus beauforti) which is found in tropical America has invaded the East Kolkata wetland. They compete with the native species for the food and also feed on rotting items which is the main food source for native fishes of East Kolkata wetland.

The East Kolkata Wetlands is one of the 26 Ramsar Sites of India. It is also one of the 115 identified wetlands which are funded under the NPCA (National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems) Scheme. So far, an amount of Rs. 2.39 crore has been released to Government of West Bengal for undertaking various conservation activities like canal renovation work, de-siltation, weed removal, capacity building, zoning regulation, water management, biodiversity conservation, fisheries development, livelihood improvement, education & awareness etc.

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