

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.\*315**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2018

**Conservation/Breeding of Chiru Goat**

\*315. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to conserve and breed the Chiru goat, a near threatened species, whose underfur is used for making the famous Shahtoosh shawl and to provide a sustainable livelihood opportunity to the people of Jammu and Kashmir;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a),(b) and (c)      A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO \*315 REGARDING 'CONSERVATION/BREEDING OF CHIRU GOAT' BY SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR DUE FOR REPLY ON 16.03.2018.**

(a), (b) and (c) Tibetan Antelope or *Chiru* (*Pantholops hodgsonii*) is listed in the Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according it the highest degree of protection against hunting. The important habitats of *Chiru*, in India have been notified as Protected Areas, for the purpose of conserving the species. Further, the species is also listed in Appendix-I of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) thereby regulating the international trade of the species and its parts and products. The species is conserved in the Protected Areas of Jammu and Kashmir, namely, Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary and Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary. The Government of India is providing funds for the conservation of various species including Chiru in these parts through the scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'.

Presently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has no plans to breed Chiru, mainly due to the following reasons:

- i. Scientific assessments indicate that as *Chiru* inhabits high altitude Tibetan Plateau and requires large expanse of land for its movement and ranging patterns to fulfill its feeding & breeding requirements, rearing in captivity, therefore, is extremely difficult.
- ii. Any attempt to do conservation breeding at very high altitude regions of Ladakh would not be economically viable and feasible as humans can not be posted there continuously for more than 2-3 months as this would lead to high casualties.
- iii. As the quality of wool depends on the cold and harsh climatic factors operating at high altitudes (3800 m up to 5500 m), where the animal occurs in nature, it may not serve the purpose, if kept in captivity below this altitude.

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