

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2819
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2018

Loss of Animals and Birds

2819. SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS:

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

- (a) whether several animals/birds including blackbucks, sparrow, honey-bee are vanishing from the environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to prevent such irreparable loss of precious animals/birds from the environment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a)and (b) It is a fact that few species of animals and birds including sparrow, honey-bee are decreasing. However, the species are not vanishing from the environment. As per the Red List version 2017-3 published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 94 species of mammals, 89 species of birds, 54 species of reptiles, 75 species of amphibians, 228 species of fish and 135 species of invertebrates in India are listed as 'Critically Endangered' (Extremely high risk of extinction), 'Endangered' (Very high risk of extinction) and 'Vulnerable' (High risk of extinction).
- (c)and (d) The Ministry has taken the following important steps to protect the endangered wildlife species and their habitats:
 - 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 Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', which *inter-alia*, includes 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 Snow Leopard, Asiatic Lion, Gangetic Dolphins, Manipur Brow Antler Deer, Red Panda, Great Indian Bustard, 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, including peacocks, and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
