

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1072
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

Endangered Bird Species

1072. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to conserve and improve the population of endangered bird species of the country;
- (b) the details regarding endangered birds whose population continues to decline in spite of schemes and programmes of the Government to protect them;
- (c) whether power transmission lines across forests are one of the reasons for the declining bird population and if so, details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken to address the issues relating to protection of endangered birds and removal of power transmission lines in forests/national parks/wildlife sanctuaries?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The steps taken by the Government to conserve and improve the population of endangered animals including bird species of the country is given in the **Annexure**.
- (b) There is no specific report indicating declining of bird population in the country in spite of schemes. However, the population of Jerdon's Courser and Great Indian Bustard are still critically endangered.
- (c) Studies conducted by Wildlife Institute of India have reported mortality of birds in and around Desert National Park due to power line collision. The western dry regions of India such as deserts and grasslands of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra are particularly affected by power-line impacts on birds.
- (d) The Ministry has already initiated preventive measures to address the issues relating to protection of endangered birds due to linear infrastructure development. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in consultation with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, National Tiger Conservation Authority, National Highway Authority and World Bank has published a document namely 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure' which included procedural guidance on mitigating power-lines passing through Protected Areas. The Standing Committee of NBWL in its 47th Meeting held on 25th January, 2018 recommended that in future user agencies involved in linear infrastructure development should take into consideration the advisory made in the guidelines of the Wildlife Institute of India while designing the linear infrastructures inside the Protected Areas, notified Eco Sensitive Zone area around PAs.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1072 REGARDING 'ENDANGERED BIRD SPECIES' BY SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI DUE FOR REPLY ON 8.2.2019.

The steps taken to conserve and improve the population of endangered animals including bird species of the country include:

- i. 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, birds and their habitats.
- ii. 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 including birds and improvement of habitat.
- iii. A specific component of 'Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is provided in the on-going Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on 21 identified critically endangered species including bustards, Edible-nest Swiftlet, Nicobar megapode, Jerdon's Courser and vultures. Financial assistance is provided to States/UT Governments for recovery programme of the critically endangered species of birds and animals.
- iv. 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).
