

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1124
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

Great Indian Bustard

1124. SHRIMATI POONAMMAHAJAN:

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

- (a) whether only one male Great Indian Bustard, is surviving in Kutch district of Gujarat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and there action of the Government thereto;
- (c) the reasons for the decline of the male population of the Great Indian Bustard in Gujarat;
- (d) the action taken by the Government to protect the Great Indian Bustard in the country;
- (e) whether the captive breeding facilities are being established to prevent extinction of the bird and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the total population of the Great Indian Bustard in the country, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a)&(b) Great Indian Bustard (GIB) is a critically endangered species of bird found in India. As per the information received from the State Government of Gujarat, Seven numbers of male Great Indian Bustards were recorded in a Census carried out in November, 2016 in Kutch district of Gujarat. State Government is taking all necessary actions to preserve and conserve the Great Indian Bustard. These includes:
- i. Declaration of Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary and eco sensitive zone in Abdasa taluka of Kutch district.
 - ii. The State scheme on Great Indian Bustard conservation is operational.
 - iii. State has developed chain link fencing surrounding the GIB Sanctuary and Protected Area and also initiated the stray dog sterilization programme in surrounding villages.
 - iv. Regular patrolling and monitoring work is being done in the area by Forest Department staff.
 - v. State Government has also developed education, awareness & Eco

- development in villages surrounding the sanctuary.
- (c) State Government of Gujarat has stated that no specific reasons has been reported for the decline of the male population of the Great Indian Bustard in Kutch.
- (d) Important efforts made by the Government for conservation of Great Indian Bustards are as given below:
- i. The Great Indian Bustard is listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby, according them highest degree of legal protection from hunting.
 - ii. Important habitats of Great Indian Bustards are designated as National Parks/ Sanctuaries for their better protection.
 - iii. The Ministry has taken up the initiative for conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) under the Endangered Species Recovery Programme Scheme, in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
 - iv. In consultation with State Government, Wildlife Institute of India and international experts, a site for establishment of Conservation breeding centre has been identified in Kota District, Rajasthan.
 - v. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Wildlife Habitat for providing better protection to GIB and its habitat.
- (e) A conservation breeding program has been formulated by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of Rajasthan and Wildlife Institute of India as part of the Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement under the project 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard (GIB)-An Integrated Approach' with financial support from MoEF&CC. An important component of this programme is to initiate Conservation Breeding as an insurance against total extinction and possible restocking of wild populations of GIB and Lesser Florican species in the future.
- (f) As per the information received from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, the total number of Great Indian Bustard in India is less than 150 individuals. There are 128 ± 19 individuals in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan and 5-10 individuals across Deccan (Solapur, Bellary, Kurnool). The State Government of Gujarat has informed that as per the census carried out in Noveber, 2016, the total population of GIB in the State was 25.
