

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1796
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

Impact of Water Diversion Project on Biodiversity

1796. SHRI COSME FRANCISCO CAITANO SARDINHA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any studies on the impact of water-diversion projects on the biodiversity in the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the State of Goa, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of budget outlays and actual expenditure of the Ministry for the State of Goa in the last ten years, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to conserve biodiversity in the Western Ghats including Goa?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) The Ministry has not undertaken any studies on the potential impact of water-diversion projects on the biodiversity within the National Parks and wildlife sanctuaries situated in the State of Goa. Conservation and protection of the Wildlife and its habitat is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Governments. The Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments.
- (b) Ministry has released funds to the tune of Rs. 197.644 lakhs to State Government of Goa under Central Sector Scheme - Development of Wildlife Habitats during last ten years.
- (c) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to ensure conservation of biodiversity in the Western Ghats including Goa. Some of the important steps are as follows:
 - i. Financial assistance is provided to States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for activities like creation and maintenance of water holes for wild animals in Protected Areas, soil and moisture conservation measures, establishment of anti-poaching camps, strengthening wildlife veterinary care, eradication of weeds, creation and maintenance of fire lines, awareness generation.

- ii. Financial assistance is provided to States for the recovery programme for saving critically endangered species and habitats under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'.
- iii. Rare and endangered species of animals found in the Western Ghats have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
- 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.
- v. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
- vi. The Ministry has formulated the 3rd 'National Wildlife Action Plan' for a period of 2017 to 2031 to save wild animals in the country. The Plan focuses on landscape approach in conservation of all wildlife irrespective of where they occur. It also gives special emphasis to recovery of threatened species of wildlife while conserving their habitats which includes terrestrial, inland aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems.
- vii. In order to further strengthen conservation of wildlife, Eco- Sensitive Zones are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
