

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2770
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

Conservation of Dolphin

2770. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT:

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

- (a) whether the Dolphin fish in the Ganga river is on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make any efforts to increase the number of Dolphins continuously;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the said efforts are likely to be made; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) As per studies conducted on river dolphin, population of Gangetic river dolphin in the mainstream Ganga are known to be stable, although there has been decline in tributaries. The important steps taken by the Government for conservation of Gangetic river dolphin include:

1. Gangetic river dolphin is listed in the Schedule –I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, according them highest degree of protection.
2. Gangetic river dolphin has been designated as the National aquatic Animal of India.
3. The Ministry has included Gangetic river dolphin as one of the 22 critically endangered species for providing financial assistance to States under the Centrally sponsored scheme ‘Development of Wildlife habitats’.
4. Important habitats of Gangetic river dolphin along the Ganges river has been notified as Protected Areas, such as Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary, Bihar.
5. A comprehensive action plan (2022-2047) has been developed to ensure well being of the river dolphin and aquatic habitats, the role of various stakeholders and line Ministries have been identified.
