

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2979
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

DECLARATION OF GAUMATA AS NATIONAL ANIMAL

† **2979. SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY:**

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain bird flower, animal etc. in the country have been designated as national bird, national flower and national animal and provided protection along with the special status keeping in view the sentiments of common people across the country;
- (b) if so, the respective dates on which the above have been designated as national symbols along with names of such protected bird, flower, animal etc. including other national symbols;
- (c) whether revival of these national symbols have taken place after providing them protection and status of special importance;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government intends to recognize 'Gaumata' an integral part of Indian Culture as a national animal as considering protection and revival of Indian and sanatan culture by bringing a legislation in the Parliament in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the hon. High Court of Allahabad and Jaipur have also ordered and commented to expedite the process of declaring 'Gaumata' as national animal; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (d): As informed by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MoEF&CC), the Government of India had notified Tiger and Peacock as 'National Animal' and 'National Bird' respectively. As the said notifications of the Government of India were not forthcoming in the official records of MoEF&CC for quite some time, the Ministry re-notified Tiger and Peacock as 'National Animal' and National Bird' respectively, on 30th May 2011.

Tiger and Peacock have been included in the Schedule-I animals of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection from hunting. In addition, important habitats of these animals have also been declared as Protected Areas. The population of tigers in the country has increased from 1411 in 2006 to 3682 in 2022.

(e) to (h): As informed by Department of Animal Husbandry, under the distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the States, (Article 246(3) of the Constitution) preservation of animal is a matter on which the State legislature has exclusive powers to legislate. In order to complement and supplement the efforts made by the States and UTs the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying is implementing Rashtriya Gokul Mission for development and protection of indigenous breeds including indigenous breeds of cattle. The mission is leading to increase in availability of indigenous breeds including cattle in the country. Department has also established Animal Welfare board of India for protecting animals including cow and its progeny.
