

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.580
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

Survey on Extinct/Endangered Wildlife Species

580. MS. DIYA KUMARI:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey/ review of extinct/ endangered wildlife species in the country and whether any comparative data has been prepared thereunder, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there has been a constant decline in the number of wildlife species in the country during the last five years;
- (c) if so, the details of such extinct species, State-wise especially in Rajasthan; and
- (d) The steps taken by the Government in the conservation, development and rehabilitation of these species during the last five years, State-wise especially in Rajasthan?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Management of wildlife and its habitats, including population assessment, is primarily the responsibility of the respective States/Union Territories. As per available information, the population of Asiatic lion, tiger and elephants during the last three censuses is as follows:

S No.	Asiatic Lion		Tiger		Elephant	
	Year	Population	Year	Population	Year	Population
1	2010	411	2014	2226	2007	27669-27719
2	2015	523	2018	2967	2012	29391-30711
3	2020	674	2022	3167 (Minimum population estimate as per Status of Tigers- 2022)	2017	29964

- (b)&(c) As per report of Zoological Survey of India , there is no report in the decline of wildlife species in the country , including State of Rajasthan during last 5 years.

(d) Important steps taken by the Government to protect and conserve wildlife in the country including State of Rajasthan are as follows:

- i. A network of Protected Areas (National parks, Sanctuaries, Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves) have been created in the Country.
- ii. 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.
- iii. In order to further strengthen conservation of wildlife, Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- iv. Financial assistance is provided to States for the recovery programme of critically endangered species for saving critically endangered species and habitats under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'. A total of 22 critically endangered species have been identified under this programme.
- v. Financial assistance is provided to States under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Project Tiger and Elephant' for activities like creation and maintenance of water holes for wild animals, 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.
- vi. Rare and endangered species of animals found in India have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection, through 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.
- vii. 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.
