

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1952**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2019**

**Protection of Eagle Species**

1952. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to protect the three different species of eagles;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

- (a) and (b) Following two species of Eagle have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby, according them highest degree of legal protection from hunting:
  - i. Osprey or fish eating eagle (*Pandion haliaetus*)
  - ii. White bellied sea eagle (*Haliaetus leucogaster*)
- (c) Steps taken by the Government for protection of birds including eagle species in the country includes:
  - i. Legal protection has been provided against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - ii. Protected Areas, viz, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves have been created all over the country as per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to Wildlife including eagles.
  - iii. Financial and technical assistance is being extended to the State

Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, "Development of Wildlife Habitats", 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.

- iv. Ministry issued an advisory to all States/ Union Territories Chief Wildlife Warden, Principal Secretaries of Forest Departments, Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Authority, Power Grid Corporation of India and States/ Union Territory Electricity Boards for implementation of recommendations of the Task Force constituted by the Ministry for suggesting Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Power Transmission lines and other Power Transmission Infrastructure on Wildlife. A copy of recommendation of the Task Force is enclosed at **Annexure 1**.

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## ANNEXURE-1

### **ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TP PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1952 REGARDING “PROTECTION OF EAGLE SPECIES” BY SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.11.2019**

Recommendations of the Task Force constituted by Ministry for suggesting Eco-friendly measures to Mitigate Impacts of Power Lines and other Power Transmission Infrastructures on Wildlife:

- i. Immediate rectification of sagging transmission lines and cable of existing transmission line in the protected areas by the Electricity Supply Utilities, PGCIL, CEA, and SEBs.
- ii. Joint inspection of every transmission / distribution line passing through the protected areas or passing through the vicinity of protected Areas (which are frequented by wild animals) by officials of Electricity Department and Forest Department would be undertaken regularly, at least thrice a year once before onset of monsoon and once after monsoon so as to identify potential problem stretches.
- iii. Forest Department shall inform the concerned power supplier / line owner of the area about every electrical accident occurring in and around forest area involving human/ animals which in turn shall submit an accident report in Form A (Form for reporting electrical accidents) as given in the Intimation of Electrical Accidents (Form and Time of Service of Notice) Rules, 2005 duly completed in all respects to Electrical Inspector of the Appropriate Government. All electrical accidents should be investigated by Electrical Inspector and suitable measures should be taken as proposed in the investigation report.
- iv. To prevent death of animals in the forest areas due to electrocution by the distribution lines, the distribution companies shall preferably use **ABC (aerial bunched cables) or underground cable**. In case of the overhead lines, the clearance above ground of the lower conductor of 11 kV / 33 kV overhead lines should be as per CEA Regulations.
- v. Rule 59(3) of the CEA (Measures Relating to Safety and Electric Supply) Regulations, 2010 (as Amended) would amend as follows:

In case of laying of transmission lines of 33 kV and below passing through habitated urban or rural areas, any forest area other than National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserve, Community Reserve, Eco-Sensitive Zones around the protected areas and Wildlife Corridors, **underground cable or aerial bunched cables or covered conductors** shall be used.

Further new Section would be added as Rule 59(4) reading as below:

In case of as in case of laying of transmission lines of 33 kV and below passing through protected areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserve, Community Reserve), Eco-Sensitive Zones around the protected areas and wildlife corridors, **underground cable** should be used. In cases where these areas are aquatic and marine in nature, **aerial bunched cables or covered conductors** would be used as alternative to the underground cables.

- vi. Right of Way (RoW) for 11kV transmission lines can be optimized keeping in view the corridor requirement for the future by adopting suitable alternative of multi-circuit / or multi-voltage lines. Conductors of appropriate size shall be selected considering power flow requirements and other system considerations in consultation with neighboring transmission and generation utilities. For transmission lines of 400 kV or higher voltage class, bundle conductors (minimum two conductors per phase for 400 kV AC and four conductors per phase for 500 kV DC and 765 kV AC shall be used for satisfactory performance of transmission lines from corona and interference aspects. The conductors may be of type aluminum conductor steel reinforced, all aluminum alloy conductor or other new technology conductors depending on system requirements and should avoid base conductors.
- vii. The existing transmission lines should be replaced retrospectively with **insulated cables / or underground cables on priority basis** by Electricity Supply Units, Power Distribution Companies and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.
- viii. A sub-committee consisting of one representative from CEA, DIG(FC) and DIG(WL) would examine Right of Way (RoW) requirements for laying of transmission lines in the protected areas.
- ix. Early planning and rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment are two principal requirements for reducing wildlife mortality due to transmission lines, as well as minimizing the risks of costly power outages. A nationwide strategy should be developed and supported to undertake the long-term planning of electricity grid networks as a priority. Planning should include the use of state-of-the-art wildlife protection equipment, and **burying low to medium-voltage transmission lines below ground where feasible**.

Burying transmission lines effectively removes the problem of wildlife electrocution. Environmental Impact Assessment is an invaluable tool to inform decision making, helping to ensure that transmission lines are appropriately routed and designed.

- x. The routing of transmission lines and shifting transmission structures should be done collaboratively, involving the electricity supplier company, government bodies,

conservation agencies, land owners and other interested and affected parties, culminating in one or more memoranda of understanding.

- xi. There is a need to set up reinforced electric poles fitted with spikes to prevent elephants rubbing against them and lifting of sagging overhead power lines. This is yet to be done in many protected areas. Also insulate overhead wires across all elephant habitat and elephant movement zones and remove / dismantle all defunct solar powered fences.