

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4254
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2019.

Number of Peacocks

4254. SHRI C. N. ANNADURAI:

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

- (a) whether peacock has been declared as national bird of our country and if so, the date of such a declaration;
- (b) the areas, where such birds are found in large numbers in the country;
- (c) the total number of such birds in the country along with the time by when the last census of national bird was undertaken;
- (d) whether taming and poaching of peacock is punishable under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, if so, the quantum of punishment/fine for such offence along with the steps taken to protect such birds from such illegal activity; and
- (e) whether any directives have been issued by the Union Government to States/UTs to provide shelter to these birds in public gardens, national parks, botanical gardens that are maintained by State/local authorities and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) The Government of India had notified Peacock as 'National Bird'. As the said notification of the Government of India was not forthcoming in the official records of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for quite some time, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India re-notified Peacock as National Bird of India on 30th May 2011.
- (b) and (c) Peacocks are commonly found birds, both inside forest areas as well as in agricultural or human habitations. Management and protection of wildlife including birds is carried out by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. Population estimation with respect to certain flagship species/mega fauna is carried out by the State/Union Territory Governments at periodic intervals. The State/Union Territory-wise population of peacocks are not collated in the Ministry.
- (d) and (e) Peacocks are listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection. Hunting (including capture and killing) of Peacocks is prohibited as per the provisions of Section 9 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

As per the proviso under Section 51 (1) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, in case the offence relates to animal specified in schedule I or part II of schedule II or the meat of such animal, animal article, trophy, or uncured trophy derived from such animal or hunting in Sanctuary or National Park, shall be punishable with imprisonment of not less than 3 years extendable to 7 and also with a fine not less than Rs. 10,000/- and in the second or subsequent offence of above nature shall be punishable with imprisonment of not less than 3 extendable to 7 years and also with a fine not less than Rs. 25,000/-.

The important steps taken for protection of such birds include: Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles, including peacocks, and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws. Besides, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s). The Law enforcement authorities in the States maintain strict vigil against poaching of peacocks.

The State/Union Territory Governments are empowered under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection), 1972 for creation of National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation reserves and Community Reserves. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial and technical assistance to the State/UT Governments for management of wildlife and its habitat.
