

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1131
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020.

Mass Extinction of Indian Species

1131. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that more than 30,000 species are threatened with extinction process and out of these 25 percent are assessed to be mammals;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any report of mass extinction of Indian wildlife species during the last 50 years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by Government thereon and the proposals of wildlife organizations, others to safe guard on rare species?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) There is no report in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change indicating that more than 30,000 species are threatened with extinction in India. Further, there is no report in the Ministry of mass extinction in India in last 50 years. However, since Independence some animal species like Cheetah, Pink Headed Duck, and Himalayan Quail have been reported extinct in India.
- (e) The important steps taken by the Government to safe guard rare and endangered species include:
 - i. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats. The extent of the protected areas in the country is increasing and stand at 5.02% of the geographic area of the country.
 - ii. Many species like tiger, elephants, rhino etc. have been saved from the brink of extinction and are thriving in the country.
 - iii. Eco-sensitive Zones around most of the national parks and sanctuaries have been notified providing more area as buffer for the safety and

- conservation of the endangered species.
- iv. Financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, for providing better protection to wildlife including rare species of animals and improvement of their habitat.
 - v. A specific component of 'Recovery Programme for Saving Critically Endangered Species and Habitats' is provided in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on 21 identified critically endangered species, including Arabian Sea Humpback Whale, Gangetic dolphins, Snow leopard, Hangul, Sangai deer, Marine turtle, Bustards, vultures, etc. Financial assistance is provided to States/UTs for recovery programme of the critically endangered species of birds and animals.
 - vi. Rare and endangered species found in India, like Tiger, Snow Leopard, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, etc. have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
 - vii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for stringent 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(s).
 - viii. The local communities are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities who help the forest department in protection of wildlife.
 - ix. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau coordinates with State/UTs and other enforcement agencies to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles.
