

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2767
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

Death of Migratory Birds

2767. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up any committee to probe into the tragic deaths of migratory birds last year at Sambhar lake in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said committee has submitted its report to the Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the main reasons of the deaths of migratory birds as per the report along with the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such tragedies in future?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) A committee comprising of the Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi, Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and Scientist, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar, Bareilly was constituted by the Ministry to assess/inquire on the matter regarding death of birds in Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan in November, 2019.
- (c) and (d) The committee submitted its report to the Ministry in December, 2019. The report mentioned that the cause of death in birds in Sambhar lake was Avian Botulism.
The important recommendations including steps taken to prevent such incidences as per the report are as follows:
 - (i) Ensuring the enforcement of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 by the State Government.
 - (ii) Identification and demarcation of zone of influence of the lake.
 - (iii) Stopping discharge of solid or liquid waste from any habitation or industry in Sambhar Lake.
 - (iv) Regular combing for removal of carcasses.
 - (v) Regular monitoring of fauna and flora of the lake.

- (vi) Implementation of bio-security and bio-safety measures.
- (vii) Capacity building for prevention and control of diseases of migratory birds.
- (viii) Declaring Sambhar Lake as a Protected Area.

The said report of the committee was sent to the State Government of Rajasthan for taking action. As informed by the State Government of Rajasthan, the important steps taken to prevent such tragedies include:

- (i) State Wetland Authority has been notified vide order dated 27.11.2019.
- (ii) A Standing Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan has been constituted vide order dated 24.12.2019 for regular and effective monitoring of Sambhar Wetland area.
- (iii) A sub-committee of the Standing Committee has been constituted by the State Government vide order dated 18.06.2020 for management of Sambhar Lake.
- (iv) A Standard Operating Procedure for handling birds infected with Avian Botulism has been issued by the Rajasthan State Forest Department on 15.09.2020.
- (v) Surveillance teams have been constituted.
