

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2903**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

**Extinction of Species of Animals**

2903. SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN:

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

- (a) the details of species of animals facing extinction across the country, species-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to enhance the protection of tiger reserve forests in the country including Kerala;
- (c) whether the forest cover has decreased in the country including Kerala in the last five years, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the reasons for such a decrease; and
- (e) whether any significant steps are being taken to increase the land area under forest cover, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) As per IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), there are 12 species of mammals, 17 species of birds, 10 species of reptiles, 20 species of amphibians and 36 species of fishes, that is, altogether 95 species of animals are under the Critically Endangered (CR) category, which is next to Extinct (Ex) category.

(b) Tiger Conservation has statutory backing through a dedicated chapter in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 from which the National Tiger Conservation Authority (Normative Standards for Tourism Activities and Project Tiger) Guidelines, 2012 emanate. These guidelines prescribe normatives for tiger conservation in the country which *inter alia* include protection, habitat management, monitoring among others. Further, funding assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is provided for conservation of tigers and their habitat in the country including Kerala.

(c) & (d) No sir, there is no decrease in the forest cover in the country including the State of Kerala. As per latest India State of Forest Report-2019 prepared by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the total forest cover of the country is 7,12,249 square kilometre (km<sup>2</sup>), which is 21.67% of the total geographic area of the country. The increase in forest cover for the country and State of Kerala during the last five years is as follows:

(Area in square kilometre)

	Forest Cover (ISFR 2015)	Forest Cover (ISFR 2017)	Forest Cover (ISFR 2019)
India	7,01,495	7,08,273 (6778)	7,12,249 (3976)
Kerala	19,278	20,321 (1043)	21,144 (823)

(e) Various schemes are being implemented by Central and State Government for increase in forest cover of the country. These include National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Afforestation activities are also taken up under various schemes of State Government/UT Administration.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is also implementing National Agroforestry Policy 2014 with an objective to meet the demand of timber, food, fuel, fodder, fertilizer, fibre and other agroforestry products, conserving the natural resources and forest; protecting the environment & providing environmental security; and increasing the forest/tree cover. Also, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo.

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