

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1920
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

Great Indian Bustards

1920. DR. RAM SHANKAR KATHERIA:

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

- (a) the total number of Great Indian Bustards in the country;
- (b) whether the number of the Great Indian Bustards is reducing rapidly;
- (c) if so, the reduction recorded in their number during the last three years along with the reasons therefor;
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government for conservation of the Great Indian Bustard;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Centre for breeding and conservation for the Great Indian Bustard; and
- (f) if so, the locations identified for setting up of such centre, State/UT-wise including Uttar Pradesh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) As per the information available with the Ministry, the total number of Great Indian Bustards in India is about 150.
- (b) and (c) There are no reports in Ministry indicating that the number of Great Indian Bustards is reducing rapidly in recent times.

(d), (e) & (f) Important steps taken by the Government for conservation of Great Indian Bustards are as given below:

- i. The Great Indian Bustard is listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby, according it highest degree of legal protection from hunting.
- ii. Important habitats of Great Indian Bustards are designated as National Parks/ Sanctuaries for their better protection.
- iii. The species has been identified for conservation efforts under the component 'Species Recovery Programme' of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - Development of Wildlife Habitat. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Wildlife Habitat for providing better protection to Great Indian Bustard and its habitat.
- iv. Ministry has taken up an initiative on conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard in collaboration with Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra Forest Departments and technical support from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The Ministry with financial support from National Authority for Compensatory Afforestation Funds has sanctioned an outlay of Rs. 33.85 crores for the duration of five years for the programme titled 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-an integrated approach'. The objective of this programme is to build up captive population of Great Indian Bustard and to release the chicks in the wild for increasing the population and also to promote in-situ conservation of the species.
- v. Ministry has also constituted a Task Force for suggesting Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of power transmission lines and other power transmission infrastructures on wildlife including the Great Indian Bustard.
- vi. A site for establishment of a Conservation Breeding Centre for the Great Indian Bustard has been identified at Kota District, Rajasthan in consultations with State Forest Departments of Rajasthan and Gujarat, Wildlife Institute of India and international experts, under the project titled 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-an integrated approach'. Currently, a satellite conservation breeding facility with incubator, hatcher, chick rearing and housing for captive birds has been set up at Sam, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan and is managed by WII Scientists, Rajasthan Forest Department with the technical assistance of the International Fund for Houbara Conservation and Reneco, Abu Dhabi. A total of sixteen (16) GIB chicks, (artificially hatched from eggs collected from wild) are being reared presently in the satellite conservation breeding facility at Sam, Jaisalmer Rajasthan.

There is no proposal to establish Conservation Breeding Centre in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
