

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2412
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022

Conservation of Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary

2412. SHRI. AJAY KUMAR MANDAL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of dolphins in Ganga river is declining very fast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the remedial measures adopted for their protection;
- (d) the steps taken for conservation of Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary; and
- (e) the funds allotted by the Government for the conservation of Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) and (b) As per information available in the Ministry, the population of Ganges River Dolphins is stable in the mainstream of river Ganga.
- (c), (d) and (e) The steps taken for protection of Ganges River Dolphin in the country, including Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin sanctuary, are as follows:
 - i. Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*) has been listed in Schedule-I, thereby giving it the highest degree of protection.
 - ii. Ganges River Dolphin has been designated as the National Aquatic Animal of India.
 - iii. Project Dolphin has been initiated for better conservation of both riverine as well as marine Dolphins.
 - iv. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has included Ganges River Dolphin as one of the 22 species under the species recovery programme of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Wildlife Habitats.

- v. Important habitats of Ganges River Dolphin along the Ganges river have been notified as Protected Areas.
- vi. A project on development of Conservation Action Plan for River Dolphins has been initiated.

The details of funds released by the Ministry during the last five years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Wildlife Habitats for the conservation of Dolphins and associated species, including for Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, is as given below:

S.No.	Year	Amount released (in Rupees lakh)
1	2017-18	49.4525
2	2018-19	56.5365
3	2019-20	0.00
4	2020-21	21.685
5	2021-22	112.14223
