

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2281
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

List of Fauna in the Country

2281. DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of expenditure incurred for preparation and publication of the comprehensive list of fauna in the country including the total number of species catalogued;
- (b) the key objectives and significance of creating a complete list of Indian fauna, and the manner in which it contributes to biodiversity conservation efforts;
- (c) the methodologies and technologies used in compiling the list including collaborations with research institutions and experts;
- (d) the details of impact of having a complete fauna list on policy-making and conservation strategies, supported by relevant examples and case studies; and
- (e) the future plans for maintaining and updating the said list and any initiatives to promote public awareness and involvement in biodiversity conservation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is a premier research institution on animal taxonomy in India under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India working to promote survey, exploration, research and documentation of fauna in the country. The preparation of comprehensive checklist of fauna of India has been completed by the Scientists of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). A total of 1,01,369 faunal species have been catalogued up to December, 2023.

India is one of the global mega biodiversity countries with four global biodiversity hotspots within its geographical limits. Towards this goal, ZSI has been publishing details of fauna at various spatial scales (e.g. Protected Areas, RAMASAR sites, States and Union Territories etc.). As part of this ongoing exercise, ZSI recently published faunal diversity of all the ten biogeographic zones of India. Biodiversity documentation at multiple spatial scales are essential for developing strategies and action plans for long term conservation plans.

The comprehensive list of fauna of India has been compiled by subject experts (taxonomists) after extensive consultation of published literature including online databases.

The published comprehensive fauna list also tabulate State and Union Territory level faunal diversity. With the publication of this list, the statistics on faunal diversity of States and Union Territories is updated. Information of endemic, threatened species is important to set priorities for conservation of species and habitats and is done on a continuous basis, including the future action plans of ZSI.
