

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 126**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024

**State of India's Birds Report 2023**

126. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) the State of India's Birds Report 2023 indicates a 39 per cent decline in bird populations over the past decades, particularly among species that depend on vertebrates, carrion, and invertebrates, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether birds endemic to the Western Ghats and the Sri Lanka biodiversity hotspot, such as the Great Gray Shrike, have seen a decline of over 80 per cent;
- (c) the details of initiatives taken by the Government in response to said Report; and;
- (d) the details of any improvements in the population of these bird species as a result of said initiatives?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not published any report titled 'State of India's Birds Report'. The Ministry undertakes population estimation of flagship species like Asian Elephant, Tiger, Leopard and Snow Leopard. Population assessments are also carried out by the respective States/Union Territories for many other wild animals including birds.

The steps taken by the Ministry for protection of wildlife including bird species of the country include:

- i. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 lists 208 species of birds in Schedule I and 1134 species of birds in Schedule II, thereby according them protection from hunting.
- ii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- iii. The Ministry has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, for better protection of wetlands in the country.
- iv. A specific component of 'Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is included in the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on 22 critically endangered species including Bustards, Edible nest Swiftlets, Nicobar Megapode, Jerdon's Courser and Vultures.
- v. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/UT Governments for protection and management of Protected Areas under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'.

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