

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2164**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

**Conservation of Crocodiles**

2164. SHRI LUMBA RAM:

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

- (a) whether the number of crocodiles has been declining in the country, if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the number of crocodiles;
- (c) the details of number of crocodile conservation centres in the country, State-wise including Rajasthan; and
- (d) whether the Government is planning to develop Munia Dam of Sirohi district as a crocodile centre, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Population estimations of various species of crocodiles have not been undertaken nationally. However many States/UTs undertake population estimations of different crocodile species within their jurisdictions.
- (b) The Government has taken a number of steps for protection and conservation of wildlife including crocodiles. Important measures include:
  - i. Marsh crocodile (*Crocodylus palustris*), Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) and Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) are listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
  - ii. Creation of Protected Areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries, Community Reserves and Conservation Reserves) under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, for conservation of wildlife and its habitat.
  - iii. Eco-Sensitive Zones are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries in order to strengthen conservation of wildlife, under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
  - iv. Financial assistance to States/UTs including State of Andhra Pradesh under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Project Tiger and Elephant' and 'Development of Wildlife habitats'.
  - v. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about illegal wildlife trade in wild animals and animal articles and to

achieve interstate and trans boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.

- (c) Zoos are recognised in the country by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) as per the standards and norms specified in the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009. There is no zoo recognised by the CZA which is exclusively housing crocodiles.
- (d) No proposal for recognition of any zoo for exclusively housing crocodiles in Sirohi district of Rajasthan is under consideration of the CZA.

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