

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2481**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

**Biodiversity Conservation and Wildlife Protection**

2481. SHRI ANUP SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

- (a) the details of recent achievements in expanding and managing protected areas such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries;
- (b) the action taken by the Government to combat poaching and trafficking of endangered species;
- (c) the details of community-based conservation programmes implemented to involve local populations;
- (d) whether any efforts have been made to restore degraded ecosystems and critical habitats; and
- (e) the details of the technology being used for wildlife monitoring and conservation?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (e) The Wild life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for notification of Sanctuaries, National Parks, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves for according protection to wildlife and its habitats. The number of Protected Areas (PAs) in the country has increased from 745 in 2014 to 1134 in February 2025. There has been an increase of 18,324.54 sq.km area under Protected Area network in the country during the last decade.

The Government has taken a number of steps to conserve biodiversity and protect wildlife in the country. The important measures for conservation of biodiversity and wildlife protection in the country are as follows:

- (i) Rare and endangered species of animals have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection
- (ii) Special programmes like 'Project Tiger', 'Project Elephant', 'Project Lion', 'Project Snow Leopard', 'Project Dolphin', 'Project Cheetah', 'Project Great Indian Bustard', have been undertaken for their conservation.
- (iii) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments /UT Administrations for management of wildlife and development of its habitat under the Centrally sponsored scheme 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger and Elephant'.
- (iv) A specific component of 'Recovery programme for saving critically

- endangered species and habitats' is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on identified 24 critically endangered species.
- (v) Eco Development activities are undertaken by the States Governments /UT Administrations involving local communities in wildlife conservation.
  - (vi) Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
  - (vii) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various agencies and State Governments to combat organized wildlife crime.
  - (viii) Advisories and alerts are issued to State and Central agencies by the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau for preventive action on poaching and illegal wildlife trade.
  - (ix) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
  - (x) Technology like Camera traps, drones, wireless, e-surveillance etc are used for monitoring of wild animals, detecting illegal intrusions, early warning system in relaying information to quick reaction teams in the field for managing human wildlife conflict.
  - (xi) The Ministry provides financial assistance for promoting afforestation and forest conservation in the country, which include the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), with aim to protect, restore and enhance India's forest cover and respond to climate change; the Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) for developing forest/green spaces in urban and peri-urban areas; and the School Nursery Yojana (SNY), for engaging students in understanding the importance of plants and is implemented in recognized public and private schools.
  - (xii) The Ministry also promotes mass plantation drives on occasions such as International Day of Forests, World Environment Day, *Van Mahotsav*, Wildlife Week, etc., and raises awareness through campaigns. The '*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*' campaign, launched on 5th June 2024, encourages citizens to plant a tree in honour of their mothers and Mother Earth.
  - (xiii) The Ministry has also launched the National Afforestation Monitoring System (NAMS) to strengthen centralized, transparent monitoring using geospatial tools. The Forest Survey of India (FSI) under the Ministry undertakes forest resource surveys and assessment of changes in forest cover.

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