

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3531
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

Conservation Breeding Efforts for Great Indian Bustard

3531. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for the conservation and protection of the Great Indian Bustard, particularly in Rajasthan, and the manner in which its listing in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 contribute to its protection from hunting;
- (b) whether the Government has designated important habitats of the Great Indian Bustard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the role of National Parks and Sanctuaries in the species' conservation efforts and the manner in which the "Species Recovery Programme" under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Development of Wildlife Habitats assist in this initiative;
- (e) the details of conservation breeding efforts undertaken to protect the Great Indian Bustard, including the collaboration between the Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra Forest Departments and the Wildlife Institute of India in this regard; and
- (f) the details of results achieved through the said breeding programme along with its goal for building a captive population?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (f) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers the State Governments and Union Territory Governments for declaration of National Parks and Sanctuaries for the purpose of protecting, propagating or developing wild life or its environment. The Act also mandates that the Chief Wild Life Warden manage and protect all Sanctuaries and National parks in accordance with management plan and take all such measures for ensuring the security of wild animals in the Sanctuary or National Park.

Under the Species Recovery Programme component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and Union Territory Governments for activities aimed at focused conservation of identified species. Great Indian Bustard is one of the 24 species identified for taking up focused conservation actions.

The important steps taken for protection of Great Indian Bustard, including in the State of Rajasthan are as follows:

- i. The Great Indian Bustard is listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according it the highest degree of legal protection from hunting. Section 9 of the Act provides that no person shall hunt any wild animal specified in Schedule I.
- ii. Habitats crucial for conservation have been designated as Protected Areas. For example Desert National Park in Rajasthan. Similarly, Protected Areas have also been declared in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- iii. Government of India had launched the Bustard Recovery Programme “Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard” in 2016 - an initiative of conservation breeding and research-guided in-situ conservation for the GIB and Lesser Floricran that is being implemented in collaboration with Rajasthan Forest Department.
- iv. Conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard has been undertaken in collaboration with Forest Departments and technical support of Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun with the aim of building a captive population of the species for release in the wild and promoting in-situ conservation of the species.
- v. Two conservation breeding centers have been established at Sam (2019) and Ramdevra (2022) in Jaisalmer District, Rajasthan, that are functional. The program has developed techniques for artificial hatching, chick rearing, bustard husbandry, captive breeding. The GIB has been bred in captivity successfully for the first time under this program.
