

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4017
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve in Andhra Pradesh

4017. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

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

- (a) the specific conservation, habitat restoration and protection measures undertaken by the Government to ensure the survival of several endangered and rare species such as the Golden Gecko (*Calodactylodes Aureus*), Slender Loris, Indian Giant Squirrel, Mouse Deer (*Mushika Jinka*) and Yellow-throated Bulbul in Sessa chalam Biosphere Reserve in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) whether any scientific studies, biodiversity monitoring programmes or eco-development initiatives have been taken up in the reserve to support species recovery; and
- (c) whether the Government has allocated or proposes to allocate funds under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Scheme or any other Schemes to strengthen patrolling, prevent habitat encroachment and promote community participation in wildlife conservation, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial assistance to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Development of Wildlife Habitats” for conservation and management of protected areas, conservation of wildlife outside protected areas, and recovery of critically endangered species and their habitats as per the Annual Plan of Operations received from States/UTs. The activities supported under the scheme includes management planning, strengthening research and awareness, anti-poaching measures, strengthening of protection infrastructure, habitat improvement, eco-development, management of human-wildlife conflict and capacity building.

All the conservation initiatives, habitat restoration and protection measures have been undertaken in Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve by the State Government. In addition, conservation measures for the entire ecosystems of the Biosphere Reserve have been carried out in an integrated manner. Further, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has conducted population estimation of Slender Loris in Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary, which is a part of Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve.

(b) As per the information received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Zoological Survey of India is conducting research study on faunal diversity of Seshachalam

Biosphere Reserve. Besides, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research is also conducting bird's survey, using bio-acoustic technology.

(c) The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 and Rules, 2018 aims to mitigate the loss of forest cover and associated ecosystem services resulting from the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes through activities such as compensatory afforestation, restoration of degraded forests, enhancement of wildlife habitats and biodiversity conservation. In order to strengthen patrolling, prevent habitat encroachment and promote community participation in wildlife conservation in the State of Andhra Pradesh, a total of ₹58.68 crore and ₹62.95 crore have been approved during the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26, respectively to the Andhra Pradesh State CAMPA Authority.
