

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 219
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

Protection and Conservation of Endangered Species

219. DR. BACHHAV SHOBHA DINESH:

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

- (a) whether several mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and corals are threatened/critically endangered in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any plans for the protection and conservation of the threatened/critically endangered species, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether monitor lizards found in Maharashtra are considered vulnerable/threatened or endangered, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether monitor lizards are protected under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 or any other such legislation, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has received any proposals or request from the State Government of Maharashtra or any Member of Parliament for the same during the last ten years and the current year; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides protection to wild animals from hunting. Rare and endangered species of wild animals are listed in Schedule I of the Act, thereby according them highest degree of protection. The important steps taken for protection and conservation of species include:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments /UT Administrations for management of wildlife and development of its habitat under the Centrally sponsored schemes 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger & Elephant'.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) Eco Development activities are undertaken by the States Governments /UT administrations involving local communities in wildlife conservation.
- (v) Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (vi) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various agencies and State Governments to combat organized wildlife crime.

- (vii) 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.
- (viii) 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.

(c) to (f) Four species of Monitor Lizard, viz., Bengal Monitor (*Varanus bengalensis*), Desert Monitor (*Varanus griseus*), Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator*) and Yellow Monitor (*Varanus flavescens*) have been listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

The Ministry receives requests/memoranda from the States/UTs, including people's representatives, from time to time. Such requests/memoranda are examined in the Ministry as per extant policies, Acts, rules, regulations, guidelines etc.
