

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1070
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

Impact of Diversion of Mhadei River

1070. SHRI CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES:

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

- (a) whether the concerned authorities kept in view the impact of diversion of Mhadei River water on the flora and fauna in Mhadei wildlife sanctuary, Mahavir wildlife sanctuary, Mahavir National Park, Bondla wildlife sanctuary and Salim Ali Bird sanctuary in Goa State and Bhimgad wildlife sanctuary in Karnataka State
- (b) the effect of diversion of the Mhadei river water on climate change; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect endemic species in Western Ghat from getting extinct?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) The proposal for use of 10.6852 ha. of forest land from the tiger corridor in between Kali and Sahyadri Tiger Reserves for construction of Kalasa Nala Diversion Scheme in Khanapur Taluk, Belagavi District, Karnataka was discussed in the 77th meeting of the Standing Committee for the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL). However, no approval to this project has been given by the SCNBWL so far.
- (c) The important steps taken by the Ministry to protect endemic species and their habitats in Western Ghats include:
 - i. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is implementing a number of schemes for conservation of forest, wildlife and environment in different States and Union Territories, including Western Ghats States. These include the Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Elephant, Forest Fire Prevention and Management, and National Mission for a Green India. Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority are also utilized for conservation of forest and wildlife in the Western Ghats.
 - ii. A network of Protected Areas namely viz, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the

- provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
- iii. The Ministry also notifies Eco-sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries.
 - iv. In accordance with provisions contained under Section 33 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Ministry has issued guidelines for the process of management planning for Protected Areas and other process of management planning for Protected Areas and other landscape elements.
 - v. Financial assistance is also provided to States/UTs for the recovery programme of critically endangered species under the component Recovery programme for saving of critically endangered species and habitats under CSS- 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'.
 - vi. Rare and endangered species of animals found in India have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
 - vii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence.
 - viii. Law enforcement authorities in the States/UTs maintain strict vigil against poaching of wild animals.
 - ix. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
 - x. The Ministry has issued advisory to States/UTs for strengthening campaign of solid waste management and freedom from single use plastic, water conservation in wetlands inside and in areas surrounding protected areas, experience based learning for conservation and protection of wildlife and carbon sequestration while planning developmental projects in and around Protected Areas.
