

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:219
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
INDIAN BOARD FOR WILDLIFE
BRIJLAL KHABRI;SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a lack of priority for conservation of wildlife in the country;
- (b) if so, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Indian Board for Wildlife has recommended priority sector status for wildlife and forests;
- (d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the Indian Board for Wildlife and action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) the concrete plans formulated by the Government to conserve wildlife in the country and steps taken to ensure that the Board meets every year to discuss the issues relating to conservation of wildlife?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b),(c),(d)&(e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. REGARDING INDIAN BOARD FOR WILDLIFE DUE FOR REPLY ON 18.3.2002

(a)&(b) Keeping in view the administrative and financial constraints, conservation of wildlife in many areas of the country has not received the necessary priority it deserves.

(c),(d)&(e) The Indian Board for Wildlife at its meeting held on 21st January, 2002 recommended that Wildlife and forestry shall be declared as priority sectors at the National level for which funds shall be earmarked. The details of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 adopted by the Board are given in Annexure -I. In the said meeting of the Board, the National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-2016 was also adopted. The salient features of the Plan are furnished in Annexure -II. The 'Wildlife Conservation Strategy -2002' and the Wildlife Action Plan 2002- 2016 have been sent to the Chief Secretaries of the States and Union territories for compliance. These have also been taken up with the Planning Commission for facilitating early implementation. During the meeting the Prime Minister has directed that the Board should meet more frequently.

ANNEXURE I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (c)&(d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.219 FOR REPLY ON 18.3.2002 REGARDING INDIAN BOARD OF WILDLIFE

The details of the Wildlife Conservation Strategy-2002 adopted by the Indian Board for Wildlife are -

1. Wildlife and forests shall be declared priority sector at the national level for which funds should be earmarked.
2. Law enforcement agencies must ensure that those engaged in poaching, illicit trade in wildlife and wild life products, destruction of their habitat, and such other illegal activities are given quick and deterrent punishment.
3. Potential in wildlife tourism should be fully tapped taking care that it does not have adverse impact on wildlife and protected areas. The revenue earned from the increased tourism should be used entirely to augment the resources for conservation.
4. Protecting the interests of the poor and tribals living around protected areas should be handled with sensitivity and with maximum participation of the affected people. They should have access to the minor forest produce, in the forest areas outside national parks and sanctuaries. Employment generation for these people is crucial for maintaining symbiosis between the forests, wildlife and the people. People should be encouraged to take up afforestation and conservation in new areas.
5. While strengthening protective measures against traditional threats to wildlife, we should also respond to newer threats such as

toxic chemicals and pesticides.

6. There should be greater governmental as well as societal recognition and support for the many non-governmental organizations engaged in wildlife conservation.
7. Creatively produced Television Programmes on wildlife and ecology are widely appreciated by young and old as seen from the popularity of dedicated T.V. channels like, Discovery, National Geographic and Animal Planet. It is proposed that Prasar Bharati and other private channels alongwith with agencies like WWF for Nature should collaborate and increase original Indian content in different languages on our television.
8. No diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes from critical and ecologically fragile wildlife habitats shall be allowed.
9. Lands falling within 10 km. of the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries should be notified as Eco-fragile zones under section 3 (v) of the Environment (Protection) Act and Rule 5 Sub-rule 5 (viii) & (x) of the Environment (Protection) Rules.
10. Removal of encroachments and illegal activities from forestlands and Protected Areas.
11. Commercial monoculture to replace natural forests shall not be permitted.
12. The settlement of rights in National Parks and Sanctuaries should not be used to exclude or reduce the areas that are crucial and integral part of the wildlife habitats.
13. More than 2000 vacant posts in the frontline staff of Protected Areas shall be filled immediately and the staff provided with basic infrastructure for efficient discharge of duties. Ban on recruitment of staff against vacant post should be lifted on lines with the Police Department. Innovative initiatives such as redeployment of surplus employees in other departments, hiring local people on voluntary or honorarium basis, raising donations from business houses and other members of the public in return for a greater role for them in implementing programmes need to be explored.
14. Every Protected Area should be managed by forest officers trained in wildlife management.
15. Mitigation measures for human-animal conflict and mechanism for crop insurance, as also expeditious disbursements of ex-gratia payments should be instituted by States.
16. A Forest Commission should be set-up to look into the restructuring, reform and strengthening of the entire forest set up and affiliated institutions in the country.
17. A Working Group shall be constituted to monitor implementation of Wildlife Action Plan.

Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d)&(e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.219 FOR REPLY DATED 18.3.2002 REGARDING INDIAN BOARD OF WILDLIFE

Salient features of National Wildlife Action Plan

National Wildlife Action Plan is a comprehensive document highlighting the importance of conservation of natural ecosystems for sustained availability of water and meeting the livelihood needs of the people. The Action Plan gives in detail the action required and priority projects that are crucial for effective conservation of wildlife. The broad parameters covered under the Action Plan are:

1. Strengthening and Enhancing the Protected Area Network.
2. Effective management of Protected Areas.
3. Conservation of Wild and Endangered Species and their Habitats.
4. Restoration of degraded habitats outside Protected Areas.
5. Control of Poaching, Taxidermy and illegal trade in wild animals and plant species.
6. Monitoring and Research.
- 7 Human resource development and personnel planning.
8. Ensuring peoples participation in wildlife conservation.

9. Conservation awareness and education.
10. Wildlife tourism
11. Domestic legislation and international conventions.
12. Enhancing financial allocation for ensuring sustained fund flow to the wildlife sector
13. Integration of National Wildlife Action Plan with other sectoral programmes.