

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1589  
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004  
EXTINCTION OF BIRD SPECIES  
Chandel Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the Bombay Natural History Society and the Bird Life International have warned about increasing extinction of bird species in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether these bodies have pointed out that pinhead duck, forest owlet, zurdones kursur, himalayan mountain quails, saras crane and two species of vultures are also on the verge of extinction and needs to be protected; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for their protection?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) & (b) There is no report of extinction of bird species in recent years. Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Birdlife International and several other organizations have been warning about decrease in population of several bird species in India. Pink headed duck and the Himalayan Mountain Quail were last sighted in 1935 and 1876 respectively and hence are considered extinct. There has been more than 90% decline in the population of three species of vultures viz., White Backed, Long Billed and Slender Billed in many parts of the country.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Some of the important steps taken by the Central Government to protect Jerdon's Courser, Forest Spotted Owlet, Saras Crane and Vultures are as follows -
  - (i) Protection status of Vultures has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 providing it the highest degree of protection under the Act.
  - (ii) Crucial habitats of various species of wild animals and birds have been notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries. Important National Parks and Sanctuaries are also notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.
  - (iii) Management of Wildlife Habitats is done on scientific lines, allowing only such activities in the National Parks and Sanctuaries which are for betterment of Wildlife.
  - (iv) Support scientific research for monitoring the population status of various species and evolving strategies for in-situ and ex-situ conservation of various species.
  - (v) National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-16 and Wildlife conservation Strategy 2002 have been framed and adopted in January 2002.
  - (vi) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for effective management of National Parks and Sanctuaries.
  - (vii) Bombay Natural History Society in collaboration with the Haryana State Forest Department has taken up a project on conservation of vultures. A 'Vulture Captive Care Facility' has been established at Panchkula.