

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3720

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005

SETTING UP PARKS SANCTUARIES

Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Singh Shri Dushyant;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up new national parks and sanctuaries and modernize the existing ones during 2005-2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the funds earmarked for the same; and
- (c) the present status of Dolphins and other migratory birds in sanctuaries/parks particularly in Tamil Nadu and Orissa?

Answer

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

- (a) No, Sir. Declaration of areas as National Parks and Sanctuaries and their management falls under the domain of the State Governments. However the Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to the States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries"
- (b) No funds are earmarked for individual National Parks and Sanctuaries. The financial assistance released depends on the Annual Plan of Operations submitted by the States and the availability of funds under the scheme.
- (c) The Gangetic Dolphin is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thus accorded highest level of protection to the species. No reports of threat to the population of the Dolphins have been received by the Ministry from State Governments, including Orissa and Tamil Nadu. The population of Irrawady Dolphins in the outer channel and Satpada area of the Chilka Lagoon in Orissa has been estimated to be 111. Important habitats of dolphins have been notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries by State Governments. No evidence of any decline in population of migratory birds has been reported from any State, including Tamil Nadu and Orissa, except in the case of Siberian Cranes in Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan.