

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3769  
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004  
PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE AND BIRDS  
Murmu Shri Hemlal

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken any effective steps for conducting census of birds with a view to protect them;
- (b) if so, the name of the species of birds which have been included in the bird census;
- (c) the details of the effective steps taken by the Government for the protection of wild animals and birds; and
- (d) the steps taken to protect the villagers from the terror and attacks of wild animals?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Protection of birds is the primary responsibility of the state governments. The Central Government provides technical and financial support for this purpose. Regular census of birds cannot be carried out as most of the species utilize terrestrial and aquatic natural ecosystems as well as areas modified due to human activities as their habitat and resort to local and distant migration.

(c) Steps taken by the Central Government for protection and conservation of wildlife are as under:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving them highest degree of protection.

(iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that are used for committing wild life offence.

(iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(vi) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16 has been adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life under the chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(viii) Government of India is a signatory many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

(d) the steps taken to protect the villagers from the terror and attacks of wild animals inter-alia include

- (i) Habitat improvement along the fringes of the protected areas.

- (ii) Awareness amongst the villagers for taking precautionary measures.
- (iii) Provision of hunting of the wild animals that become dangerous to human life and property under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (iv) Ex-gratia payment to the victim of wild animals or his kith and kin.