

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:313
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
PROTECTION OF BIRDS
Rao Shri Kalva Kuntla Chandrasekhar

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

- (a) the number of deaths of birds noticed in different wetland sanctuaries every year because of pollution in the water during the last three years;
- (b) the steps taken to save the rare species of birds in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate new guidelines to preserve the eco-balance for protecting the birds; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) and (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 313 FOR REPLY ON 13.03.06 REGARDING 'PROTECTION OF BIRDS.

(a) No reports have been received regarding deaths of birds in wetland sanctuaries due to pollution. Stray cases of natural mortality or incidental poisoning do take place for which no information is collated. However during the year 2005-06, two cases of major mortalities of wild birds were reported, which are placed at Annexure- I.

(b) The steps taken to save rare species of birds include the following:

(i) Species of birds are listed in different Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 ensuring high degree of protection,

(ii) Financial and technical assistance is provided under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of important Bird Sanctuaries and wetlands of the country,

(iii) 71 wetlands covering 22 States have been identified under National Wetland Conservation Programme for carrying out conservation activities,

(iv) Specialised agencies viz. Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) are being associated in the task of avifaunal research, conservation and monitoring,

(v) India is a signatory to many International Conventions dealing with conservation and regulating international trade in wildlife and wildlife articles, thus affording higher degree of conservation to wildlife, including birds,

(vi) All States/UTs carry out continuous surveillance of wetland sanctuaries for conservation of both resident and migratory birds.

(c) No new guidelines are proposed to preserve the eco-balance.

(d) Does not arise.