

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1009  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010  
WORLD HERITAGE SITE STATUS  
Ramasubbu Shri S.

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

- (a) whether Keoladev National Park (KNO) earlier called as Bharatpur Bird sanctuary is heading to lose its UNESCO World Heritage Site Status;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any steps were taken to conserve the world heritage status;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)& (b) The World Heritage Committee in their meeting held during 2009 at Seville, Spain had expressed concern over the situation of Keoladeo National Park resulting from water shortage in the Park and has urged the State Party to ensure that the infrastructure requirements necessary to ensure the needs of the World Heritage Property for water supply are completed in 2009 and in the absence of substantial progress, the Site may be inscribed on the List of World Heritage in danger.

(c)& (d) The important steps taken to conserve the World Heritage Status are:

(i) The State Government has completed the Chiksana Canal project, which would draw 50 million cubic feet of flood water to Keoladeo National Park during the monsoon period. Further, four deep bore wells and two new shallow bore wells have also been dug inside the Park.

(ii) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has been providing financial & technical assistance to the State Government for the better management of Keoladeo National Park. An amount of Rs.69.04 lakhs has been released during the current financial year under the centrally sponsored Scheme of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats".

(iii) About 310 million cubic feet of water per year for initial four years and about 62.5 million cubic feet of water per year after four years would also be made available to the Park from the Dholpur-Bharatpur Chambal drinking water project.

(iv) In order to bring a permanent solution to the water crisis faced by Keoladeo National Park, the Planning Commission has approved an amount of Rs. 50.76 crores for drawl of about 350 million cubic feet of water from Govardhan Drain for the Park during monsoon every year.

(v) An UNESCO funded project has been launched for better management and improved co-ordination amongst all stakeholders of Keoladeo National Park.

(e) Does not arise.