

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4779
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010
MIGRATORY BIRDS
Sinha Shri Shatrughan

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

- (a) the places and months when migratory birds normally visit in the country;
- (b) whether their numbers have decreased; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase their numbers and to facilitate their migration?

Answer

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

(a) Migratory birds visit most parts of India mostly during winter months each year. Kolleru Lake Bird Sanctuary and Pulicat Lake Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh, Kaziranga National Park in Assam, Nal Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat, Sultanpur National Park in Haryana, Ranganthittu Bird Sanctuary in Karnataka, Chilika Lake in Orissa, Keoladeo Ghana National Park in Rajasthan, Point Calimere and Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, are some of the important locations visited by the migratory birds. During arrival and return migrations, birds would have several stopovers, which are distributed all over India in patches.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) About sixty protected areas covering fresh water and coastal wetlands provide habitat and protection to migratory birds. The Ministry has identified 25 wetlands as Ramsar Sites for conservation of water birds and their habitats. A network of protected areas also provides habitat for migratory terrestrial and wetland birds. The Ministry provides financial assistance for appropriate management interventions in such habitats and protected areas to support breeding and migration of birds. Most of the migratory birds are protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.