

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2948
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2011
PROTECTION OF ANIMALS
Rana (Raju Rana) Shri Rajendrasinh Ghanshyamsinh

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

- (a) whether several animals/birds including blackbucks, sparrow, honey-bee are vanishing from the environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to prevent such irreparable loss of precious animals/birds from the environment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. The populations of many species of animals and birds are decreasing.
- (b) The species wise details are not compiled in the Ministry.
- (c) & (d) Steps taken by the Government to protect wildlife are as follows:
 - i) Legal protection has been provided to endangered wild animals and plants against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - ii) The Wildlife (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 is used for committing wildlife offence.
 - iii) Protected Areas, viz. National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to wildlife, including threatened species and their habitats.
 - iv) Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife.
 - v) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the communication information and field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.
 - vi) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to strengthen the machinery for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.