

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1243

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011

EXTINCTION OF BIRDS

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

- (a) whether a number of birds including sparrow are on the verge of extinction in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of birds; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) As per IUCN Red List, about 87 bird species in India are listed as globally threatened, which are on the verge of extinction. In addition, more than 60 species are near threatened. However, house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is not listed in this Red List as the species is so far not assessed to be threatened. The Bird Life International's recent fact sheet also does not include house sparrow under the category of threatened species. However, studies conducted by Research Organizations and Non Governmental Organisations including Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology, Coimbatore and Bombay National History Society indicate that house sparrow population has shown a decline. Details of bird species which are globally threatened are listed in Annexure.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to protect the endangered species of birds are as follows:

- i. The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides financial assistance for conservation of wildlife including birds, both inside as well as outside the Protected Areas, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'.
- ii. The Ministry supports research projects aimed at conservation of wildlife including threatened species of birds.
- iii. The National Board for Wildlife under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister constituted two Sub-Committees comprising conservation experts for recovery of threatened terrestrial and aquatic species in India. These Committees have already developed guidelines for "Threatened Species Recovery Plan" and selected certain threatened bird species to be considered on priority basis which include Great Indian Bustard, Jerdon's Courser and Nicobar Megapode.