

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:995
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011
PROTECTION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed the steep decline in the number of migratory birds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the migratory birds?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The number of migratory birds arriving in the country depends on various factors including habitat quality and preference, human disturbances along their migratory route, pollution, hunting and other biotic factors etc. However, as per the latest 'Asian Waterbird Census' coordinated by the Wetlands International, the population of threatened migratory birds in the entire flyway region which includes Central Siberia, Mongolia, Central Asian republics, Iran, Afghanistan, Gulf States and the Indian sub-continent, are either decreasing or stable.

(c) & (d) The Government of India is providing financial and technical assistance to specialized institutions like Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) etc. for conducting various studies for monitoring populations of important bird species and their habitat. The important studies relating to status of birds, including migratory birds, and their habitats in India are:

1. Monitoring migratory birds of Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur by WII, BNHS and SACON
2. Migratory Movements of Birds at Point Calimere by BNHS
3. Satellite Tracking of Bar-headed Geese and selected Ducks between Pong-Dam, Himachal Pradesh and their breeding grounds by BNHS
4. A study on migratory birds in Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary by WII
5. A study on birds of Trans-Himalaya by WII
6. Migratory Movements of Birds of Uttar Pradesh
7. Status and distribution pattern of Himalayan birds including migratory by WII
8. Heronries of Southern India by BNHS

(e) The important steps taken for protecting migratory birds are given below:

(i) Rare and endangered species of birds, including migratory birds, are included in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them highest degree of protection.

(ii) Stringent punishments have been provided for in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for violation of the provisions of the Act.

(iii) Important habitats of birds, including migratory birds, have been notified as Protected Areas under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for better conservation and protection of birds and their habitats.

(iv) Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/UT Governments for protection and management of Protected Areas.

(v) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established for control of illegal trade in wildlife and its parts and products.