

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1990
ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012
CONSERVATION OF BIRDS
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) whether several species of birds including peacock in the country are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) and (b) The information received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests from scientific institutions like the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun; Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai; Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore; and the information contained in the IUCN Red List version 2010.1 indicates that 14 species of birds from India are critically endangered, which, however, do not include peacocks. The details of the bird species reported from India which are listed as Critically Endangered are at Annexure.

The major threats being faced by these bird species include habitat destruction, hunting/poaching, indiscriminate use of pesticides and chemicals harmful to birds etc.

(c) The important steps taken for protecting the endangered birds of India are given below:

- (i) Rare and endangered birds, including Indian Peafowl, are included in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them highest degree of protection.
- (ii) Stringent punishments have been provided for in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for violation of the provisions of the Act.
- (iii) Important habitats of birds, including endangered and migratory birds have been notified as Protected Areas under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for better conservation and protection of birds and their habitats.
- (iv) Financial & technical assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments for protection and management of Protected Areas as well as other forests under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
- (v) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established for control of illegal trade in wildlife, including endangered species of birds, and their parts and products.
- (vi) India is signatory to all major international conventions relating to conservation and management of wildlife, including endangered species of birds. These are Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
- (vii) Research and monitoring activities on birds are promoted by the Government through reputed research organizations. Wildlife Institute of India, Bombay Natural History Society and Salim Ali Center for Ornithology and Natural History are some of the research organizations undertaking research for conservation of birds.