

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6141

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012

PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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

- (a) whether the pesticide contamination has affected the breeding biology of birds such as Raptors and Sarus cranes in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any steps to stop the effects of pesticide contamination on future bird generations;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) 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) Although no authoritative study is available, there are reports which suggest that pesticide contamination affects the birds including Raptors and Sarus cranes by entering the food chain through consumption of agriculture products.

(b), (c), (d) & (e) Keeping in view the ecological implications of pesticide toxicity on life forms including birds, steps are taken from time to time based on research outcomes. Thus, trade and use of insecticides is dealt under the Insecticides Act, 1968. Government of India has banned the manufacture, import and use of 27 pesticides including calcium cyanide in India. The use of nicotin sulfate and captafol has been banned in India and their manufacture is allowed for export only. Use of thirteen pesticides, including endosulfan, is allowed with restrictions. The Ministry of Environment and Forests also promotes research on impacts of pesticides on wildlife, including birds, through reputed research and conservation organizations like Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History

(SACON), Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) etc.