

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7342  
ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012  
CONSERVATION OF BIRD  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the population of black-necked crane, a rare bird species found in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for conservation of the said bird species in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) The Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Department and the WWF-India jointly conducted a field survey in Ladakh landscape during 2004 and estimated a population of 64 Black-necked cranes. However, no country-wide population assessment study has been conducted by the Government on black necked crane.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government specifically for the protection of black-necked crane:

- (i) Ministry of Environment and Forests, in collaboration with WWF-India and other partners, organized an event in New Delhi during April, 2011 called 'Crane Calling' to get the support of all range countries of black-necked crane for their long term conservation.
- (ii) The Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu and Kashmir has been working in collaboration with WWF-India towards conservation of high altitude wetlands of Ladakh region.
- (iii) Scientific studies especially on the status and breeding productivity of the species have been conducted and a regular database on the species for the last ten years has been established.
- (iv) Regular education and awareness activities for the protection of the species are being conducted for various stakeholders in Ladakh region.

The Government has been taking the following actions for the conservation of rare and endangered birds, including Black-necked crane, in the country:

- (i) Rare and endangered birds 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 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.
- (v) The State/UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the protected areas.
- (vi) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established for control of illegal trade in wildlife, including endangered species of birds, and their parts and products.
- (vii) 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 of International Trade on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild flora and fauna, Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild animals and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.