

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:959

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

PROTECTION OF GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD

Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Raje

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

- (a) whether the Great Indian Bustard has been sighted at the Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the number of such birds which have been sighted;
- (c) whether conservationists have asked for launch of `Project Bustard` on the lines of `Project Tiger`;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to allocate funds to revive this endangered species;and
- (f) if so,the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) Yes,Sir.As informed by the State Government of Rajasthan, 2 Great Indian Bustards were sighted at Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan in the first week of August, 2009.

(c)to(f) Conservationists have been requesting for launching `Project Bustard`. Considering the need of the hour, Ministry has shortlisted 15 species including Great Indian Bustard and other Bustards for initiating their recovery programme. Financial provision of Rs.10 crore for such recovery programmes have been made in the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme - `Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats`. In addition, financial assistances to the extent of Rs.39.58 lakhs has been provided during the current year for conservation of Great Indian Bustard in Rajasthan.