

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2647

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012

MIGRATORY BIRDS

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

- (a) whether some endangered species of birds including Vultures are disappearing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of species of birds declared endangered, their existing number and plan for their protection;
- (c) whether the Government has allocated any funds for their protection during the last three years and the current year, species-wise; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the places in the country normally visited by the migratory birds in the country during the last three years and the current year species-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per IUCN Red List version 2010.1, about 87 bird species in India are listed as globally threatened, which are on the verge of extinction. Details of bird species which are globally threatened are listed in Annexure-I. The details about their existing number are not collated in the Ministry.

Government has taken the following steps to protect the endangered species of birds:

i. The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides financial assistance for conservation wildlife including birds, both inside as well as outside Protected Areas, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme -'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats` (CSS-IDWH). Under the component "Recovery Programmes for Critically Endangered Species" of CSS-IDWH, Bustards including Floricans, Edible nest Swiftlets, Nicobar Megapode, Vultures and Jerdon's Courser have been identified for priority support.

ii. The Ministry supports research projects aimed at conservation of wildlife including threatened species of birds.

iii. The National Board for Wildlife under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister constituted two Sub-Committees comprising conservation experts for recovery of threatened terrestrial and aquatic species in India. These Committees have already developed guidelines for "Threatened Species Recovery Plan" and selected certain threatened bird species to be considered on priority basis which include Great Indian Bustard, Jerdon's Courser and Nicobar Megapode.

iv. The Ministry has finalized "Guidelines for Preparation of State Action Plan for Bustards' Recovery Programme" in consultation with the Bombay Natural History Society and Wildlife Institute of India, and other experts and stakeholders.

v. The use of diclofenac for veterinary purposes, which was ascertained to be the reason for the decline in the population of Vultures in the country, has been prohibited.

(c) & (d) The details of funds released for conservation of specific bird species during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

Year	State/Union Territory	Species	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
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2009-10	Andman & Nicobar Islands	Edible Nest Swiftlets	30.99
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2010-11	Punjab	Vultures	2.40
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Andman & Nicobar Islands	Edible Nest Swiftlets	24.672
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2011-12 Andman & Edible Nest 18.61
Nicobar Islands Swiftlets

Haryana Vultures 5.60

2012-13 Andman & Edible Nest 17.54
(upto Nicobar Islands Swiftlets
30.11.2012)

The Union Government also provides financial and technical assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments for protection of wildlife including birds, both residential and migratory, and their habitats in the country under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant'. Funds released to the State / Union Territory Governments under these schemes during the last three years and the current year is given in the Annexure-II.

Migratory birds visit most part of the country and are not confined to a few areas. However, some of the important areas visited by migratory birds in the country, which includes some wetlands and areas notified as wildlife sanctuaries, are given in the Annexure-III. Species-wise details of places visited by the migratory birds have not been collated in the Ministry.