

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:93  
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013  
PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES  
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the animal species that are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to launch new projects for protection of birds and the endangered species in the country;
- (d) if so, the details of such projects and the budget allocation during the last three years for the purpose; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to protect these endangered species and the achievements made as a result thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a),(b),(c),(d) &(e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c),(d) AND(e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 93 REGARDING 'PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES' BY SHRI VARUN GANDHI AND SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR DUE FOR REPLY ON 04.03.2013.

(a)and (b) The Zoological Survey of India conducts exploration and status survey of faunal resources of the country and based on the same, animal species that are on the verge of extinction are identified. On the basis of recommendation received from the Zoological Survey of India, the Ministry takes necessary measures for protection and conservation of such species. In addition, in pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting of the National Board for Wildlife held on 01.11.2007, two subcommittees of experts were formed to assess and prioritize species under threat of extinction and suggest guidelines for their recovery. These committees identified 8 terrestrial and 9 marine species for conservation action.

(c)and (d) The Ministry provides financial assistance to State Governments for undertaking "Recovery Programmes for saving critically endangered species" as a component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. Budget is not allocated separately for this component. At present, sixteen species have been prioritized for taking up such recovery programmes which include Snow Leopard, Bustards (including Floricans), River Dolphin, Hangul, Nilgiri Tahr, Marine Turtles, Dugongs and coral reefs, Edible-nest Swiftlets, Asian Wild Buffalo, Nicobar Megapode, Manipur Brow-antlered deer, Vultures, Malabar civet, the great one-horned rhinoceros, Asiatic Lion, Swamp deer and Jerdon's Courser. Presently there is no proposal with the Government to launch any new projects in this regard.

Under the component "Recovery Programmes for Saving Critically Endangered Species" of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats" (CSS-IDWH) financial assistance has been provided for eight critically endangered species including Snow Leopard, Hangul, Dugongs, Edible-nest Swiftlets, Asian Wild Buffalo, Manipur Brow-antlered deer, Vultures and Asiatic Lion as per the proposals received from various State/Union Territory Governments. The details of financial assistance released to the State/Union Territory Governments for undertaking Recovery Programmes for saving critically endangered species under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats" during the last three years are as follows:

Year Amount released

(Rs. in lakhs)

2009-10 72.95

2010-11 858.593

(e) The steps taken by the Government for protection of endangered species of wild animals in the country include:

i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

ii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment for offences under the Act have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).

iii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.

iv. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wildlife, and improvement of its habitat.

v. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

vi. The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

vii. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to strengthen the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

viii. Strict vigil is maintained by the officials of State Departments of Forests and Wildlife.

The periodic assessments carried out in respect of prioritized species, rhinoceros and lion, have indicated improvement in their population status.