

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3339
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
DEMARICATION OF DESERT NATIONAL PARK
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a high level Committee for demarcation of Desert National Park in Barmer-Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan and providing infrastructural facilities to the local residents;
- (b) if so, the details of recommendations along with the steps proposed to be taken by the Government; and
- (c) the details regarding the present situation of bio-diversity of the Desert National Park and the danger associated with it as per the Zoological Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh, Member, National Board for Wildlife with the Chief Wildlife Warden, Rajasthan as the Member-Secretary for looking into the entire gamut of rationalization of boundaries of the Desert National Park. The committee recommended focused management on three types of areas:

- (i) Demarcation, fencing and protection of enclosures in as many places as possible in the Desert National Park on Government land, on pattern of the Sudasari enclosure, as core areas with minimum biotic interference;
- (ii) Panchayat lands and Government land that may be developed as pasturelands for the livestock of the residents of Desert National Park;
- (iii) Human habitation and agricultural lands, where basic human requirements have to be provided.

The specific management practices have been elaborated in 21 points for conservation of category

- (i) areas, sustainable use of category
- (ii) areas, and sustainable habitats for category
- (iii) areas.

A copy of the report of the committee has been forwarded to the State Government of Rajasthan in February 2012 for necessary action by the State Government.

(c) The important ecological details, based on the BSI publication titled 'Biodiversity of Desert National Park, Rajasthan' (2006), ZSI study report on "Fauna of Desert National Park- Rajasthan (2004) and observations made in the committee report are as given below:

- (i) The Desert National Park is one of the most important sites for the long-term survival of the globally threatened Great Indian Bustards, which are critically endangered, mainly due to habitat destruction.
- (ii) The breeding populations of White backed vultures (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Long billed vultures (*Gyps indicus*) in the Desert National Park requires protection.
- (iii) The fauna of Desert National Park represented by about 270 species and include mammals like desert fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), desert cat (*Felis silvestris*), birds like Great Indian Bustards, *Gyps* vultures etc.
- (iv) Within the Desert National Park, two endemic species of plants, viz, *Anticharis glandulosa*, and *Ziziphus truncata* have been recorded. Among the threatened species, *Ammannia desertorum*, *Convolvulus auricomus*, *Sida tiagii*, *Tribulus rajasthanensis*, *Tephrosia falciformis*, etc. have been identified. Species like *Commiphora wightii*, *Ephedra ciliate* and *tecomella undulate* that have been identified as threatened taxa in desert are well conserved in the Desert National Park.

(v) Only 13 % of grassland sites belong to "good" class; 14 % to "fair class" and 73% to "poor class".