

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4578

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013

PROTECTION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

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

- (a) the names of the birds sanctuaries and other places where migratory birds visit, State-wise;
- (b) whether there has been a sharp decline in the number of migratory birds arriving in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of measures taken for the monitoring and protection of migratory birds; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated to each sanctuary during the last three years and the current year, Sanctuary-wise?

Answer

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

(a) 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 include some wetlands and areas notified as wildlife sanctuaries, are given in Annexure-I.

(b)&(c) About 370 species of migratory birds have been reported in India. Of these, 175 species undertake long distance migration using the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) area, which includes central Siberia, Mongolia, the Central Asian Republics, Iran and Afghanistan, the Gulf States and Oman, and the Indian sub-continent. Select scientific institutions funded by the Central/ State Governments, State Forest Department(s) and NGOs working for wetlands and migratory birds have been monitoring the status of these long distance migratory birds in India. According to the latest 'Asian Water bird census' coordinated by the 'Wetlands International', the populations of threatened migratory birds in the region are either decreasing or stable.

The CAF Action Plan covers 175 species of divers, grebes, pelicans, cormorants, herons, storks, ibises, flamingoes, anatids, cranes, rails, sungrebes, jacanas, crab plovers, oystercatchers, ibis bills, stilts and avocets, pratincoes, plovers, scolopacids, gulls and terns, of which Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percropterus*), Baer's Pochard (*Atheyya baeri*), Yellow breasted bunting (*Emberiza aureola*), White tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*), Imperial Eagle (*Aquila helical*), Marbled Teal (*Marmoronetta angustirostris*), Ferruginous Pochard (*Aythya nyroca*), Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelicanus crispus*), Sociable Plover (*Vanellus gregarius*), Spoonbill Sandpiper (*Eurynohynchus pygmeus*), Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*), Nordmann's Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*), Sociable lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*), White headed Duck (*Oxyyura leucocephala*), Pallas's Fishing Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*), are endangered migratory birds of India listed in the Appendix-I of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). Except Nordmann's Greenshank, all other species have been observed to be declining in Asia including in India. The decline in the number of migratory birds is mainly due to hunting, trapping in the migratory routes, habitat destruction, pollution of wetland through domestic sewage, pesticides and fertilizers.

(d) The important steps taken for the monitoring and protection of migratory birds are given below:

- i. Rare and endangered birds including migratory 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 Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for violation of provisions of the Act.
- iii. Important habitats of birds, including 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 and technical assistance is provided to the State/UT Governments for protection and management of Protected Areas.
- v. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established for control of illegal trade in wildlife and its parts and products.
- vi. India is a contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands) and 25 wetlands in India have been notified as Ramsar sites.
- vii. Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, for better protection of wetlands in the country.

(e) The details of funds released to the birds sanctuaries during the last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' is given in the Annexure-II. No fund has been released during the current financial year, 2013-14.