

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5436

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013

PROTECTION OF BIRDS

Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun;Scindia Smt. Yashodhara Rajje

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

- (a) whether the Government is taking any stringent steps to bring about a complete ban on the sale of exotic birds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to check the online trade of birds;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to protect birds and their habitat?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) No, Sir. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Trade of exotic birds is governed under the provisions of this convention.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has hired the services of a Cyber Crime Specialist to monitor the online trade of wildlife articles including birds.

(e) Steps taken by the Central Government to strengthen wildlife conservation including protection to birds and their habitat are as below:

- i. Threatened species of wildlife including birds are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
- ii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, which is the umbrella legislation in the country to control the illegal trade in wildlife including exotic birds has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences
- iii. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including birds.
- iv. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products. Bureau is collecting intelligence and disseminating it to the enforcement agencies concerned for apprehension of criminals.
- v. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is coordinating inter-agency enforcement efforts to tackle such wildlife crime including illegal trade of birds.
- vi. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is assisting capacity building of wildlife crime enforcement agencies in detection and investigation of wildlife offences and conduct awareness campaign and sensitization programmes on wildlife crime for various stake holders.
- vii. The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.
- viii. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife including birds.