

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6421
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013
CONSERVATION OF NATIONAL BIRD
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

- (a) whether there has been gradual decline in peacock population due to the increase in poaching of the bird for its feathers and meat in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is taking any stringent steps for the conservation of the national bird; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Reports of poaching of peacocks for its feather and meat have been received in the Ministry from time to time. However, no report indicating decline in the population of peacock in the country has been received in the Ministry.

(b)&(c) The steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of wild animals including peacock in the country are as follows:

i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including peacock against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. According to the conservation and threat status, wild animals are placed in different schedules of the Act. peacocks are included in Schedule I of the Act, which affords it the highest degree of protection under the Act.

ii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, provides for punishment of offences for violation of its provisions. 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. Five PAs are especially dedicated for the conservation of peacocks.

iv. 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.

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