

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:135  
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013  
PROTECTION TO SPARROWS  
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the population of House Sparrows has been declining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any efforts have been made to list this bird in the schedule of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; and
- (d) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government to protect the said bird and to increase its population?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) Studies carried out by Research Organizations including the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology, Coimbatore and Bombay Natural History Society and NGOs, suggest a decline in population of house sparrows in India. Further, the Bombay Natural History Society has reported in a research project that sparrows as well as their larger flocks were found in lesser number during the period 2005-12 as compared to before 2005. Their nest sightings also show similar trend.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) House Sparrow is basically a species prevalent in human habitations. As such, for protection of this bird, local urban management institutions are best suited to take appropriate actions. The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides financial assistance for conservation of wildlife to the States/ Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. The activities that are eligible for funding under the scheme include habitat improvement and protection measures for wildlife areas.