

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2202
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
MIGRATORY BIRDS
Rathod Shri Ramesh

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

- (a) Whether the Government is conducting surveillance on the movement of migratory birds in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds earmarked and spent for this project during the current year; and
- (d) the steps being taken to protect the migratory birds?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In the wake of possible transmission of avian influenza virus from migratory birds to poultry through intermixing at wetlands etc., the State Department of Forests and State Department of Animal Husbandry, have been directed to monitor areas visited by migratory birds along with surveillance of poultry intensive areas. No funds are separately earmarked by the Ministry for this purpose. However, there is a joint collaborative project among Food and Agricultural Organization, Bombay Natural History Society and Ministry to monitor prevalence of AI virus in migratory wild birds. A sum of Rs. 1399250.00 has been received by Bombay Natural History Society from Food and Agricultural Organization in the current year for this project and an expenditure of Rs. 682092.00 has been incurred by Bombay Natural History Society in the current year.

(d) Steps taken to protect the migratory birds are as follows:

- (1) Important migratory birds have been included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them protection.
- (2) The important habitats of migrating birds have been declared as Protected Areas.
- (3) Financial assistance is provided to State/ UT Governments for protection and management of Wildlife, including habitats of Migratory birds.
- (4) India is a signatory to the conservation of migratory species including Birds for better conservation of such species and has the obligation for conservation of migratory species.
- (5) India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Siberian crane conservation.
- (6) Financial assistance is provided to research institutions and non governmental organizations for carrying out research on conservation of migratory birds.
- (7) Awareness is generated among local people for conservation & protection of migratory birds and their habitat.