

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:91

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013

CHECK ON POACHING OF BIRDS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) whether according to the stock-taking of peacock population in India done by the World Wide Fund for nature, the population of peacock is only 50 percent of the total peacock population that existed at the time of independence;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ban trade of peacock feathers in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to augment the population of peacock in the country?

Answer

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

(a)to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) AND (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 91 REGARDING 'CHECK ON POACHING OF BIRDS' BY SHRI B.B. PATIL AND SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE DUE FOR REPLY ON 12.08.2013.

(a) and (b) The Ministry has not received during last ten years any report on stock taking done by World Wide Fund for Nature indicating decline of peacock population in the country by 50 percent since independence. Peacocks are commonly found within and outside Protected Areas as well as in human habitations and there are no specific reports indicating a decline in the population of peacocks in the country.

(c) The Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 does not prohibit business as a dealer in peacock tail feathers and articles made therefrom. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not taken any decision to prohibit trade of peacock tail feathers within the country.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The important steps taken to protect the species include:

i. Financial assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats` for providing better protection to wildlife including peacock, and improvement of habitat.

ii. Peacock has been included under the Schedule – I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby affording this species the highest degree of legal protection.

iii. Law enforcement authorities in the States maintain strict vigil against poaching of peacocks.

iv. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles, including peacocks, and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.