

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5678
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
CONSERVATION OF VULTURES
Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh

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

- (a) whether the resident Gyps species of vultures, namely, White-backed Vultures *Gyps bengalensis*, Long-billed Vulture *Gyps indicus*, and Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*, are on the verge of extinction, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any Nation-wide survey has been undertaken by the Wild Life Department of Ministry of Environment and Forests to find out the reasons for the decline in the number of species of vultures in the country, and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the veterinary use of diclofenac medicine is one of the reasons for extinction of the species of resident vultures in the country, and if so the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is planning to ban the sale of multi-dose vials of diclofenac medicine in the country to prevent its misuse in cattle treatment, and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any Vulture Breeding Centres have been set up by Government in collaboration with State Governments and NGOs who are working for its conservation in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the Central financial assistance sanctioned /proposed to be sanctioned to some of the NGOs working for breeding of the vultures?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)to (c) A survey conducted by the Bombay Natural History Society under a special project sponsored in the year 2000 by the Ministry of Environment & Forests revealed that there has been more than 90 percent decline in many parts of the country in the populations of three species of vultures viz, White Backed, Long Billed and Slender Billed. Post mortem on dead birds and diagnostic tests revealed that feeding by vultures on carcass of animals treated with veterinary drug 'Diclofenac' was a major cause of decline in the population of these birds. It was revealed that Diclofenac causes deposition of uric acid in the visceral organs leading to sudden death.

(d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on advice of this Ministry, issued draft gazette notification GSR.503(E) dated 14th July 2014 to provide that Diclofenac injection for human use shall be in single unit dose pack only.

(e) & (f) The State Governments have set up five vulture breeding centres with support of this Ministry in different zoos, namely, Van Vihar National Park and Zoo, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh; Nandakanan Biological Park, Bhubaneswar, Odisha; Sakkarbaug Zoo, Junagarh, Gujarat; Nehru Biological Park, Hyderabad, Telangana and Muta Zoo, Ranchi, Jharkhand. The Bombay Natural History Society has established three Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres in collaboration with the Haryana Forest Department at Pinjore, Haryana, with West Bengal Forest Department at Rajabhatkhawa, West Bengal and with Assam Forest Department at Rani, Assam.

The Central Government has sanctioned a financial assistance of Rs. 76.43 lakhs to Bombay Natural History Society for Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre at Pinjore, Haryana.