

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2338

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2015

Habitat Loss

Kothapalli Smt. Geetha

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

- (a) Whether as per the report of the Zoological Survey of India, half of the mammals are facing habitat loss;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ; and
- (c) the corrective steps being taken in this regard ?

**Answer**

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

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) As per the scientific studies conducted by many organisations of repute including Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), about 50% of mammalian fauna have shrunk in their distributional range due to various anthropogenic pressures. The habitat loss of mammals is also attributed to the biotic pressure that the habitats of the mammalian fauna experience.

(c) Despite huge biotic pressure (about 1/5th of the world's population and also about 1/5th of the world's cattle population), India hosts around 8% of the world's biodiversity. Some important steps taken by the Government for conservation of biological diversity inter alia include: survey and inventorisation of biological resources, assessment of the forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring, establishment of Protected Area Networks, designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems, undertaking of species oriented programmes, such as Project Tiger and Project Elephant complemented with ex-situ conservation efforts has made it possible for India to hold on to 8% of the world's biodiversity. In addition, Biological Diversity Act 2002 has been enacted which aims at conserving biological resources of the country and regulating access to these resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use. A National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards have been set up for implementing the provisions of the Act.

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