

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3858

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016

Gangetic River Dolphin

Ninama Shri Manshankar

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

- (a) whether the Gangetic River Dolphin is on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the efforts being made for protection and promotion of the said species?

**Answer**

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

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) and (b) In general, the status of population of Gangetic Dolphin is 'endangered' and therefore, is one of the 17 species identified by the Government for recovery programme under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats. However, the latest population assessment of the species carried out in Uttar Pradesh, in Ganges and its tributaries during October 2015 indicated around 1263 Dolphins, compared to the earlier estimate of 671 assessed in 2012.

(c) The following are the important steps taken for conservation of Gangetic Dolphins:

- i. Gangetic Dolphins are listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection against hunting.
- ii. Gangetic Dolphin is one of the 17 species identified for taking up 'Recovery programme of Critically Endangered Species, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat'.
- iii. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has designated Gangetic Dolphins as 'National Aquatic Animal.
- iv. Wildlife Sanctuaries covering important Dolphin habitats have been created in the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve their habitats. These include National Chambal Sanctuary, Saranath Turtle Sanctuary, Vikramshila Ganges Dolphin Sanctuary.
- v. The National CAMPA Advisory Council in its 6th meeting held on 8th July, 2015 has approved an amount of Rs 23.00 crores in duration of 5 years for recovery programme of Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*). This project is to be coordinated by Wildlife Institute of India. The amount of Rs. 4.60 crores has been released during the first year, 2015-16.
- vi. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has initiated dolphin conservation programme in 2016 to ensure long term survival of dolphin and other river fauna.

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