

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:501
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
DEVELOPMENT OF WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

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

- (a) the details of existing wildlife sanctuaries in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government plans to develop more wildlife sanctuaries in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the proposals received from various States for development of new sanctuaries in their respective States including Rajasthan and the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (d) the details of critically endangered species identified and the programme being implemented by the Government to preserve and protect these endangered species along with the success achieved as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 501 REGARDING "DEVELOPMENT OF WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES " BY COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY FOR REPLY ON 13.08.2014:

(a) The details of Protected Areas in the country including Wildlife Sanctuaries declared under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are given in ANNEXURE-I.

(b) and (c) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers the respective State governments to notify National Parks and Sanctuaries in the respective States. The Ministry does not have any information about any proposal under consideration in the respective States about the setting up of more Wildlife Sanctuaries including the State of Rajasthan.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has identified 17 species for providing financial assistance under the component 'Recovery programme for Critically Endangered Species' under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat':

Sl No.	Species
1	Snow Leopard
2	Bustard (including Floricans)
3	Dolphin
4	Hangul
5	Nilgiri Tahr
6	Marine turtles and coral reefs
7	Dugongs
8	Edible-Nest Swiftlet
9	Asian Wild Buffalo
10	Nicobar Megapode
11	Manipur Brow-antlered deer
12	Vultures
13	Malabar Civet
14	Indian Rhinoceros
15	Asiatic Lion
16	Swamp Deer
17	Jerdon's Courser

Of the 17 identified species, financial assistance has been provided to 10 States for recovery of nine critically endangered species. The details of funds released under the recovery programme during the last five years are at ANNEXURE-II.

The programme has achieved considerable success in respect of Vultures, Manipur Brow-antlered Deer, Edible Nest Swiftlet and Lion with their population being on increasing trend. The population of Manipur Brow-antlered Deer has risen from 14 animals in 1975

to 204 animals in 2013. In the case of vultures, the decline in population has been arrested due to conservation efforts including the ban on veterinary use of diclofenac. Conservation breeding in respect of vultures has been started and has achieved success. The in-situ and ex-situ programme to conserve the Edible Nest Swiftlets implemented by the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has resulted in significant growth in population of the Swiftlet. Subsequently, after delisting of the bird from schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 its nests which are commercially used in making soups, have become a source of livelihood for the local people. Population of lion in Gujarat has also shown an increasing trend. It has increased from 284 in 1990 to 349-369 in 2005 and to 411 in 2010.