

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3863

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014

PROTECTION OF WILD LIFE

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

- (a) whether there is a decline in the population of wild life in the country including in National Parks and several animals and birds are facing threat of extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof separately indicating the names and population of such endangered species, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any scheme/programme for protection of wild life and if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance sought and provided for the purpose, State-wise; and
- (e) the other steps proposed to be taken for the protection and conservation of wild life particularly, endangered species in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a),(b)(c) As per the information available, there are no reports indicating decline of birds and animals of endangered species. On the other hand, the population of several species like tiger, lion, elephant and rhinoceros is on the rise. However, the Ministry has been receiving reports about decline in population of some other species such as bustards, vultures etc.

Estimated population of tiger, lion, elephant and rhinoceros as available with the Ministry is as given below:

Name of the Species	Estimated population
Lion	359+10 (2005) 411 (2010)
Tiger	1411 (2006) 1706 (2010)
Elephant	27669-27719 (2007) 29391-30711 (2012)
Rhinoceros	1855 (2006) 2803

Decline in population of species such as bustard and vulture are due to poaching, habitat destruction, change in landuse, cropping pattern and agricultural practice in its range areas and use of Diclofenac.

(d) The Ministry has been providing financial assistance to the State/Union Territory Governments for protection of wildlife and its habitats under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant'. State-wise details of financial assistance sought and released under these Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the current financial year is given in the Annexure.

(e) The Government has taken following steps for protection of endangered species of wild animals in the country:

i. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.

ii. 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' are focused Centrally Sponsored Schemes on conservation of endangered species namely tiger and elephant. A specific component of 'Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is provided in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on selected critically endangered species.

iii. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

iv. In addition to provision of stringent punishment for the offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of

any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).

v. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for providing better protection to wildlife including endangered species and improvement of its habitat.

vi. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

vii. The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

viii. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

ix. Strict vigil is maintained by the officials of State Departments of Forests and Wildlife.