

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *102
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

Conservation of Endangered Species

*102. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

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

- (a) whether many species are on the verge of extinction/critically endangered in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has published a Red list in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to improve protection and conservation of such species and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of such species along with the achievements thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(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 *102 REGARDING 'CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES' BY SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE AND SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB DUE FOR REPLY ON 22.12.2017.

- (a) Some species like the Great Indian Bustard, Lesser Florican, Vultures, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugongs, Tiger, Asiatic Lion, etc. are critically endangered/ endangered.
- (b) As per the Red List version 2017-3 published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 94 species of mammals, 89 species of birds, 54 species of reptiles, 75 species of amphibians, 228 species of fish and 135 species of invertebrates in India are listed as 'Critically Endangered' (Extremely high risk of extinction), 'Endangered' (Very high risk of extinction) and 'Vulnerable' (High risk of extinction).
- (c) and (d) Government of India with the assistance of Wildlife Institute of India and the State Governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Manipur and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have initiated programme for recovery of Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong and Brow Antler Deer. Government of India has also initiated recovery programme with Bombay Natural History Society for Vultures as well. Scientific studies, as part of the 'Recovery programme for saving critically endangered species and habitat', focus on conservation action and protection of selected critically endangered /endangered species. The important outcome of this programme include:
- a. Permission to install satellite tags in 6 Great Indian Bustards have been accorded thereby enabling monitoring and tracking its location.
 - b. Conservation breeding site for Great Indian Bustard identified in 'Sorsan' near Kota, Rajasthan enabling captive breeding of the species.
 - c. The incidentally captured three dugongs (sea cow) have been successfully released back to sea by the Tamil Nadu fishermen. This was due to awareness programs conducted jointly by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and the Wildlife Institute of India under the programme for conservation of Dugongs.
 - d. The drug 'Diclofenac' has been banned for veterinary use thereby reducing the mortality of Vultures.

In addition to the above, the Government has also initiated programmatic approach for protection of flagship species like Tiger, Elephant, Rhino, Snow Leopard, etc. These programmes help in protection of the flagship species and their habitats. There has also been enhancement of Protected Areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves) from 578 in the year 2000 to 764 in the year 2017, providing protection to wildlife and their habitats.

Besides, legal protection have also been accorded against hunting of wild animals and commercial exploitation under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Government has also initiated Rhino DNA indexing System (RhODIS) for identification of Rhinos for assessment and control of illegal trade in Rhino horns.

The concerted action by the Government have also resulted in enhancement of population of major flagship species like Tiger, Elephant, Rhino, Asiatic Lion, etc.
