

Great Indian Bustard

7702. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE:
SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

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

(a) the population of Great Indian Bustard in the country;

(b) the steps contemplated for preservation and increase of the population of this species and achievements made in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a bustard sanctuary in any part of the country; and

(d) if so, details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUFRAY): (a) The present estimate of population of the Great Indian Bustard, based on surveys done by the Bombay Natural History Society, and published in their report in 1989 varies between 770 to 1920.

(b) 1. the steps contemplated for presentation and propagation of this species include:—

(i) Improve the management of existing sanctuaries and to create new ones to protect and conserve the bird and its habitats.

(ii) Increase in central

assistance to the sanctuaries and national parks where the species is known to occur:

(iii) Tightening of control on poaching and illegal trade in endangered wildlife including the Great Indian Bustard.

(iv) Greater protection to the species and its habitats.

(v) Awareness-raising in people for protection and conservation of the species.

2. The major achievement is that the species has started making appearance in its original range where its population was badly depleted in the past.

(c) and (d). Setting up of sanctuaries is the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Bombay Natural History Society in December, 1989 had sent a proposal to the State Government of Gujarat to declare the grassland areas between Naliya, Jakhan Port, Suthri Village and Kothara in Kachchh District as a Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary. Further action is to be taken by Gujarat Government.

[Translation]

Joljivi Madkot-Munsayari Highway

7703. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: