

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3289
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.07.2019

Asiatic Golden Cats

3289. SHRI SANJAY SADASHIV RAO MANDLIK:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

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

- (a) whether scientists have discovered a nearly threatened, six different 'Coloured Morphis' of Asiatic Golden Cats in Arunachal Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of a study carried out by scientists from the Zoological Society of London and University College of London in Dibang valley of Arunachal Pradesh;
- (c) if so, the details and the findings thereof along with the inferences drawn by scientists from the above said discovery;
- (d) whether the Government has taken note of threatened/endangered species which are on the verge of extinction; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to prevent such extinction?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) As per the June edition of Ecology Scientific Journal published by Ecological Society of America, there is a report of camera trapping of six coloured morphs of Asiatic Golden Cats of Tightly rosette, Grey, Golden, Ocelot, Cinnamon, Melanistic cat in Dibang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- (b) As informed by the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh, no such research publication has been submitted to the State by the Research Institute.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

- (d) and (e) Presently the Ministry has identified 21 critically endangered species for the focused conservation programme under the component of “Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats’ in the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’. The list of 21 critically endangered species is given in the **Annexure**.

The steps taken by the Government for protection of endangered species of wild animals are:

- i. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation of its provisions. All the identified 21 critically endangered species are included in Schedule I of the Act.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Financial assistance is provided to the concerned State/Union Territory Governments under the component of “Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats’ in the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ for providing better protection and improvement of their habitats.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO REPLY TO PARTS (d) AND (e) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED Q. NO.3289 REGARDING 'ASIATIC GOLDEN CATS' BY SHRI SANJAY SADASHIV RAO MANDLIK, SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR AND SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO DUE FOR REPLY ON 12.7.2019.

List of 21 critically endangered species covered under 'Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats'

1. Snow Leopard and the high-altitude Himalayas
2. Bustard (including Floricans) and Grasslands
3. Dolphin and River Systems
4. Hangul and alpine grasslands
5. Nilgiri Tahr, ridge forests and shola-grassland ecosystems in the Western Ghats
6. Marine turtles
7. Dugongs and coral reefs & mangroves
8. Edible-nest Swiftlet and forests of the Andaman archipelago
9. Asian Wild Buffalo and grasslands and riverine forests of central and north India
10. Nicobar megapode and the littoral forests of the Nicobar Islands
11. Manipur Brow-antlered deer and floating water bodies and grasslands
12. Vultures
13. Malabar civet and low elevation moist forests in the west coast of peninsular India
14. The great one-horned or Indian rhinoceros and terai grasslands
15. Asiatic Lion
16. Swamp deer
17. Jerdon's Courser
18. Red Panda
19. Northern River Terrapin
20. Clouded Leopard
21. Arabian Sea Humpback Whale.