

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2060
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2019

Protection and Conservation of Wildlife

2060. SHRIMATI SANDHYA RAY:
SHRI SELVAM G.:
SHRI K. NAVASKANI:
SHRI REBATI TRIPURA:
SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has initiated Bustard Recovery Programme for Great Indian Bustard, if so, the details and the success achieved as a result thereof;
- (b) the quantum of financial and technical assistance provided by the Government to the State/Union Territory Governments for protection and conservation of wildlife including Great Indian Bustards under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of “Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats” during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked the Centre to prepare a time-bound action plan within two months for protection of the Great Indian Bustards, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has provided any assistance to the Forest Department for the protection of Great Indian Bustard and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government for protection of endangered animals and birds in the country including Great Indian Bustard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Ministry has taken up an initiative on conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard in collaboration with the State Governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra and technical support from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and financial support from “National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority” with a total budget of Rs. 33.85 crores

for the duration of five years for the programme titled 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-an integrated approach'. The important objective of this programme is to build up captive population of Great Indian Bustard and to release the chicks in the wild for increasing the population and also to promote *in-situ* conservation of the species. As part of the programme, currently a facility with incubator, hatchery, chick rearing and housing for captive birds (upto 1 year age) has been set up at Sam, Jaisalmer in Rajasthan and is managed by staff of Rajasthan Forest Department and scientists of Wildlife Institute of India and 'International Fund for Houbara Conservation' and Reneco, Abu Dhabi who have a vast experience in breeding the related Houbara and Arabian Bustards in captivity.

Some of the success achieved under the Programme includes the following:

- i. Collection of the nine eggs of GIBs from wild & hatching at the facility.
- ii. Sterilization of more than 800 dogs (another major threat to Great Indian Bustard) by WII in collaboration with HSI in priority habitat of Thar desert.
- iii. Construction of predator proof fences and active removal of Great Indian Bustard nest/egg predators from Great Indian Bustard enclosures.
- iv. Mapping of power lines falling in Great Indian Bustard habitat.
- v. Satellite tagging of Great Indian Bustard and monitoring of their activities for research on their morphological behavior etc.

(b) The details of funds provided by the Government to the State/ Union Territory Governments for protection and conservation of wildlife including Great Indian Bustards under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats" during the last three years and the current year, State/UT wise is at Annexure-1.

(c) The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) vide its order dated 04/09/2019 in O.A. No. 385 /2019 in the matter of Centre for Wildlife and Environment Litigation (CWEL) Vs. Union of India & Ors., has constituted a Joint committee comprising the following officials:-

- (i) Director General of Forest, MoEF&CC- **Chairperson**
- (ii) Additional Director-General of Forest (Wildlife), MoEF&CC- **Member Secretary**
- (iii) Nominees of Ministry of Power, Govt. of India.
- (iv) Nominees of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India.
- (v) Nominees of Energy Departments of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The mandate of the committee is to form a time-bound action plan within two months on the recommendations of the WII report mentioned in the NGT order dated 04/09/2019. Two meetings of the Committee have taken place.

- (d) The Ministry has provided funds to the following State/ Union Territory Governments for the protection and conservation of Great Indian Bustards under the 'Species Recovery Programme' of Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Development of Wildlife Habitats":

(Rs. In lakh)

Name of State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Maharashtra	110.63		135.85	87.81	0
Rajasthan	65.36	121.64	121.387	0	0
Karnataka	0	0	0	0	82.58

- (e) Steps taken by the Government for protection of endangered animals and birds in the country including Great Indian Bustards are as given below:
- i. Legal protection has been provided against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - ii. The Great Indian Bustard is listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby, according them highest degree of legal protection from hunting.
 - iii. Protected Areas, viz, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves have been created all over the country as per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to Wildlife including eagles.
 - iv. Financial and technical assistance is being extended to the State Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, "Development of Wildlife Habitats", 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.
 - v. Important habitats of Great Indian Bustards are designated as National Parks/ Sanctuaries for their better protection.
 - vi. The species has been identified for conservation efforts under the component 'Species Recovery Programme' of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - Development of Wildlife Habitat. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of

Wildlife Habitat for providing better protection to Great Indian Bustard and its habitat.

- vii. In consultation with State Government, Wildlife Institute of India and international experts, a site for establishment of Conservation breeding Centre has been identified in Kota District, Rajasthan under the above mentioned project. Currently a facility with incubator, hatcher, chick rearing and housing for captive birds (upto 1 year age) has been set up at Sam, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan and is managed by WII Scientists, Rajasthan Forest Department with the technical assistance of the International Fund for Houbara Conservation and Reneco, Abu Dhabi who have a vast experience in breeding the related Houbara and Arabian Bustards in captivity.
- viii. Ministry has also constituted a Task Force for suggesting Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of power transmission lines and other power transmission infrastructures on wildlife including the Great Indian Bustard.
- ix. Ministry has requested the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Power to direct the power supply agencies to implement the mitigation measures such as installation of bird diverters on power lines, undergrounding of power lines upto 33 KV, painting of vanes of wind turbines etc.

Annexure 1

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TP PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2060 REGARDING “PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE” BY SHRIMATI SANDHYA RAY, SHRI SELVAM G., SHRI K. NAVASKANI, SHRI REBATI TRIPURA, SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK, SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.11.2019

Details of funds released under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme- ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ during the last three years and current year are as below:

(Rs.in lakh)

S.No.	Name of States/UTs	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (as on 27.11.2019)
1	A& N Islands	118.49	141.934	191.00	132.64
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	75.00	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	256.8107	269.9348	344.42	414.14
4	Assam	0	275.827	265.32	164.26
5	Bihar	100.576	322.674	749.00	141.37573
6	Chandigarh	26.06514	26.065	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	278.9453	435.014	350.61	310.0318
8	Goa	0	85.9938	0	0
9	Gujarat	497.604	558.52	2232.00	0
10	Haryana	124.6572	181.4448	155.00	237.6078
11	Himachal Pradesh	280.31	237.4107	370.30	305.76554
12	Jammu & Kashmir	336.50626	577.9151	492.43	0
13	Jharkhand	0	95.607	50.51	93.96
14	Karnataka	325.52	427.89	653.00	418.56788
15	Kerala	1928.42	900.834	1293.40	574.916
16	Madhya Pradesh	322.265	1379.488	912.20	629.266
17	Maharashtra	497.35	808.0555	1031.20	553.333
18	Manipur	340.032	425.664	405.60	359.35
19	Meghalaya	55.23	114.061	312.00	0
20	Mizoram	1234.95	487.445	430.00	0
21	Nagaland	357.846	565.871	882.20	777.83
22	Odisha	279.65	342.937	499.00	558.474
23	Rajasthan	453.87878	622.421	585.00	679.56789
24	Sikkim	145.52	202.154	394.00	396.2745
25	Tamil Nadu	0	394.725	384.10	409.5048
26	Telangana	0	157.0833	0	0
27	Uttar Pradesh	250.956	386.968	119.81	426.611

28	Uttarakhand	545.30576	2979.361	1764.10	694.40627
29	West Bengal	237.66	657.992	960.60	800.61055
30	Puducherry	0	0	0	0
31	Lakshadweep	0	6.71	46.30	136.792
32	Delhi	0	0	551.90	0
33	WII, Dehradun- (Uttarakhand)	0	932.00	0	0
33	Tripura	0	0	0	90.31679
	TOTAL	8994.54814	15000.00	16500.00	9305.60155