

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 175
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

Birds Population in the Country

175. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

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

- (a) the current status of bird populations in the country over the past decade, particularly among species that rely on vertebrates, carrion, and invertebrates;
- (b) whether bird species endemic to the Western Ghats, The Himalayas, The Indo-Burma region and The Sundaland biodiversity hotspot, such as the Great Gray Shrike, Sarus Crane, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker, experienced significant declines in their numbers during the said period, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of initiatives taken by the Government during the said period to address the challenges facing bird populations, particularly those at risk due to habitat loss and changing ecological conditions; and
- (d) whether there are any notable improvements in the population of specific bird species, particularly those at risk, as a result of the Government's conservation efforts and initiatives, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) to (d) The Ministry undertakes population estimation of flagship species like Asian Elephant, Tiger, Leopard and Snow Leopard. Population assessments are also carried out by the respective States/Union Territories for many other wild animals including birds.

The steps taken by the Ministry for protection of wildlife including bird species of the country include:

- i. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 lists 208 species of birds in Schedule I and 1134 species of birds in Schedule-II, thereby according them protection from hunting.
- ii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- iii. The ministry has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) rules, 2017, for better protection of wetlands in the country.

- iv. A specific component of 'Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is included in the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on 22 critically endangered species including Bustards, Edible nest Swiftlets, Nicobar Megapode, Jerdon's Courser and Vultures.
- v. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/UT governments for protection and management of Protected Areas under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'.
