

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2513
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

Gharial Sanctuaries

2513. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:

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

- (a) the number of Gharial Sanctuaries along with the number of Gharials in the country, gender-wise;
- (b) the number of Gharial projects in the State of Madhya Pradesh, along with the annual reproduction rate;
- (c) the status of Project Gharial in Sidhi Lok Sabha Constituency including male/female Gharial ratio, the date of launching/implementation of the said project and percentage of increased Gharial population since its launching; and
- (d) the number of tourists visiting the said sites every year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) As per the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the States and Union Territories are empowered for notifying Protected Areas, including National Parks and Sanctuaries. National Chambal sanctuary (in States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh), Son Gharial sanctuary and Ken Gharial sanctuary in State of Madhya Pradesh are habitats for gharial. Further, gharials are found in Katarniaghat and Hastinapur Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh), Corbett National Park (Uttarakhand), Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary (Odisha), Gandhak river, Ghagra river etc.

Ministry undertakes population estimation for flagship species such as Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Dolphin. Population assessments for other wild animals are carried out by the States/UTs, and these are not collated at the level of Ministry.

(b) to (d) Son Gharial Sanctuary (Sidhi District) and Ken Gharial Sanctuary are located in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Protection and management of wildlife and its habitat, is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. During the 7th meeting of the National Board for Wild Life held on 03.03.2025, it was decided to launch a new initiative for conservation of Gharials and tackle threats to their survival. Subsequently, Gharial has also been included under the species recovery programme component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Development of Wildlife Habitats. Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs for conservation, protection, and management of wildlife and its habitats, including activities for ecotourism, as per the annual plan of operations received from States/UTs.