

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1098  
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003  
RESEARCH PROJECT ON SIBERIAN CRANES  
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

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

- (a) whether the Governemnt are aware that every year as many as 45 Siberian cranes head for the Bharatpur Sanctuary in Rajasthan for refuge during winter but during last year there were just a pair of the birds;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government have approached some other countries through which Siberian crane are flying;
- (d) if so, whether any research project has been finalised to encourage more Siberian cranes to flock here; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

- (a) & (b) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of the gradual decline in the number of Siberian Cranes that visit the Keoladeo Ghana National Park, at Bharatpur, every winter. From fifty five Siberian Cranes in 1977 -78, the number was reduced to two in 2001-02. The reasons for their decline is attributed to population reduction in their breeding ground in Siberia, habitat destruction and illegal hunting along their migratory route.
- (c), (d) &(e) The Government of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Siberian Cranes under the auspices of Convention on Migratory Species along with other range states. A collaborative project to study the migratory route of Siberian Cranes was successfully conducted in association with the Government of former USSR during mid nineties. Later, India and Russia initiated another project to release captive bred Siberian Cranes with wild Siberian Cranes at Keoladeo National Park in an attempt to establish new population. But the project did not achieve the desired results.