

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:994
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003
FRUIT BATS IN PROTECTED LIST OF WILDLIFE ACT
MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the studies that show fruit bats are essential for the growth and spread of fruit trees in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons for keeping them still in the vermin list of the wildlife schedule; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to put them into the Protected Scheduled of the Act?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, madam. Government is aware of the ecological role of bats particularly the role played by fruit bats in pollination and seed dispersal. Nevertheless, considering the fact that fruit bats cause damage to agricultural / horticulture crops, they have been included in the Schedule V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) As and when abundance status of an animal requires so, protection is provided under the provisions of the Act. Recently, two bat species including one fruit bat, namely, Salim Ali's fruit bat has been included in the Schedule I of the Act thus providing it the highest degree of protection under law.