

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2623
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
THREAT TO NATIONAL BIRD
Rai Shri Nakul Das;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that National Bird `Peacock` is vanishing due to commercial / religious use of its feathers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to curb the activity and to increase their population;

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. There is no conclusive evidence to suggest that the peacock is vanishing due to commercial / religious use of its feathers. However, poaching for feathers is a threat to the populations of peacocks. Some of the important steps taken by the Government to save the populations of national bird from poaching and to increase its population are -

(i) Peafowl is included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest legal protection. Hunting of peafowl is prohibited under the provisions of the Act.

(ii) The penalty for poaching of peafowl and illegal trade in its parts and products has been enhanced from minimum of one year to three years and maximum of six years to seven years. Provision has also been made for forfeiture of property of the habitual offenders.

(iii) Provisions have been made in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for establishing Community Reserves outside the National Parks and Sanctuaries with the help of people to provide protection to wildlife, including peafowl, in and around their natural habitats.

(iv) Export of peacock tail feathers is prohibited under the EXIM Policy, 2002-07.