

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4491  
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006  
ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES  
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Laboratory for conservation of Endangered Animal Species;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to conserve their genetic diversity?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to infuse new technology in the field of assisted reproduction and molecular characterization of the endangered species, a Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) has been established at Hyderabad in collaboration with the Central Zoo Authority, Department of Biotechnology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the Forest Department, Andhra Pradesh.

(c) In order to conserve the genetic diversity of endangered animals, the laboratory has already collected DNA samples of about 50 endangered species of Indian wild animals and preserved in DNA Bank. Further activities in the field of assisted reproduction (AI) have been established in White backed vultures. Births through AI technique have been achieved in ungulates like Blackbuck and Spotted deer. Efforts to breed large cats through AI technique and cloning are also underway.