

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4609  
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006  
BIRDS/ ANIMALS UNDER WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT  
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

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

- (a) the number of the species placed in Schedule I and measures proposed for the highest protection affordable under the law;
- (b) whether any Panel has been appointed to have a relook at all the animals, birds and insects protected under different Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act; and
- (c) if so, the terms of references of the Panel for the review of the wildlife list?

**Answer**

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

(a) There are about 316 species in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. In addition, following groups of animals are also included in the Schedule-I of the Act:

- i) Marine mammals (Cetaceans).
- ii) Hawks (Birds)
- iii) Sea Horses and Pipe fishes
- iv) Sea Cucumbers
- v) Reef building Corals
- vi) Black Corals
- vii) Fire Corals
- viii) Sea Fans.

The existing Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides full protection to these species. Hunting/collection of species specified under Schedule-I is prohibited. Their important habitats have been declared as Protected Areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries and Conservation Reserves). The Wildlife (Protection) Act also provides for stringent punishment against the violations of its provisions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main Terms of Reference of the Committee constituted to review the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are as follows:

1. The expert committees would be responsible to the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife
2. The expert committee would suggest the data based norms for inclusion, shifting, deletions of species from and within the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. As proposed in the National Board for Wildlife, three categories are to be made, two for animals and one for plants:
  - a) Schedule I: Threatened species of animals - Critically endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable
  - b) Schedule II: Near Threatened species of animals
  - c) Schedule III: Critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable and Near Threatened species of plants

The expert committee may re-examine the existing listing and suggest appropriate revisions.

4. The legal definitions of the Schedules should be revised to be in consonance with the definitions suggested by International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.
5. It must be the endeavor of the expert committee to work out the criteria for evaluation of species and suggest changes in conformity with internationally recognized principles to avoid ambiguity and adhocism during inclusion/exclusion of species in the different Schedules.
6. The expert committee would also suggest appropriate linkages to institutionalize the process of listing of species so that the periodic revisions are made commensurate to the population status of the species under consideration.
7. The Chairman with the consent of the members may co opt other subject experts to provide additional information on the taxa under consideration