

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3541

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006

POPULATION OF VULTURE

Jagannath Dr. M.;Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

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

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess their approximate population and the reasons for their deaths;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures devised to bring back the nature's scavenger from the brink of extinction?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b) & As per the reports available, the population of three vulture species namely.

(c) Slender billed, White backed and Long billed vultures has declined by about 97% in the Indian sub-continent in the last ten years. Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Govt. of India sponsored a project in 2000 for a nation-wide survey on the status and distribution of vultures with special reference to the crash in vulture population. Studies carried out in the Indian sub-continent have revealed that the veterinary formulation of the drug diclofenac is the major cause for this sharp decline.

(d) The measures taken to reverse the declining trend in vulture population include:

1. These three species of vultures have been included in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and listed by IUCN, the World Conservation Union as 'critically endangered' in the year 2000.

2. An action plan has been prepared by Ministry of Environment and Forests for saving the vultures.

3. Inter Ministerial consultations have been done for banning the veterinary formulation of diclofenac.

4. All States have been directed to monitor vulture populations and protect the existing vulture breeding sites

5. Vulture conservation centres have been established at Pinjore, Haryana and Buxa, West Bengal

6. An International Conference on Vulture Conservation was organized for strengthening regional conservation efforts.

7. Awareness campaigns have been strengthened in the States.