

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:144

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2015

Threat to Species

Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand;Tiwari Shri Manoj Kumar;Yadav Shri Om Prakash

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

- (a) whether as per the research report by a foreign research group, the existence of species other than human beings is under threat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the bio-diversity is depleting at rapid pace in the whole world ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ;
- (e) whether it is a fact that 320 out of 1500 species of present vertebrate animals have become extinct ; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Ministry is not aware of any such report.

(c) & (d) Biodiversity is depleting at an unprecedented rate due to direct drivers of biodiversity loss namely habitat degradation, invasive alien species, pollution, climate change and overexploitation etc. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005, a global scientific study, has found that changes in biodiversity due to human activities have been occurring more rapidly in the past 50 years.

(e) & (f) As per reports by Zoological Survey of India, species reported to be extinct from India during the last century include birds viz. Pink Headed Duck (*Rhodonessacaryophyllacea*), a large diving duck once found in parts of the Gangetic plains of India in 1950s and the Himalayan Quail (*Ophrysiastuperciliosa*) last reported in 1876. Among Mammals, Cheetah (*Acinonyxjubatus*) known to exist in India for a very long time, is extinct since 1940s as a result of hunting and other causes. The Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinussumatrensis*) is classed as extinct from India, primarily due to illegal poaching.
