

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1394

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015

Bio-diversity Areas

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

- (a) whether as per the Bird Life International's report released in November, 2014 titled "Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas: A Global Network for Conserving Nature and Benefiting People" major Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in the country are on the verge of extinction and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reasons behind the loss of bio-diversity and habitat in those areas;
- (c) whether a decrease has been registered in the arrival of migratory birds in various locations in the country and if so, the steps proposed for creating favourable conditions for their arrival;
- (d) the action plan proposed by the Government to save those areas and promote species recovery; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated/released for the plan, State-wise?

Answer

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

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)&(b) Bird Life International has identified 467 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in India. Following five IBAs have been reported in danger:

- i. Flamingo City, Kachchh district of Gujarat
- ii. Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary, Maharashtra
- iii. Mahul-Sewri Creek, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- iv. Sailana Kharmor Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh
- v. Tillanchong Island (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).

The report of Bird Life International does not specifically list the reasons of threats in these areas.

(c)to(e) No specific report has been received in the Ministry regarding decrease in the arrival of migratory birds in various locations in the country. Several factors, including biotic and abiotic, favourable conditions in countries of origin and the routes of migratory birds, affects the arrival of birds in India. However, steps have been taken for creating favourable conditions for migratory birds. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for declaration of Protected Areas for various objectives including propagating or developing wildlife or its environment. Under these provisions, a network of Protected Areas has been established in the country. A total of 117 Sanctuaries have a focus on protection and development of birds including migratory birds.

Many wetlands are utilized by migratory birds during the migration. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, for better protection of wetlands in the country. India is also a contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and 25 wetlands in India have been notified as Ramsar sites.

Further, the Ministry provides financial assistance to States/Union Territories for protection and conservation of wild animals and birds including migratory birds and their habitats under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger', and 'Project Elephant'.

Details of funds released to State/ Union Territory Governments under these Centrally Sponsored Schemes during last financial year is given in the Annexure.
