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| 15. | Rehaysi Jan Kalvan Smiti |
| 16. | Sawan CGHS |
| 17. | RWA19 Kalvanpuri, Delhi-1100091 |
| 18. | RWA Gazipur DDA Flats Vikas Smiti |
| 19. | Achiever Social Associates Khichripur |
| 20. | Askash Bharti CGHS Paatpargani |
| 21. | Block Sudhar Smiti Nandnagri A-2 Market |

IUCN Red List of Birds

1651. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15 avian species found in India have figured under the list of critically endangered in the latest International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Birds;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for decline of these species; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for conservation of remaining habitats in wetlands, grasslands and forests and riverline across the country and the species dependent on them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) According to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list of birds, the information contained in the IUCN Red list version 2013.2 indicates that 15 species of birds from India are critically endangered. The details of the bird species reported from India which are given in Statement (*See* below).

The major reasons for decline in the population of birds are: loss, modification, fragmentation and degradation of habitat, environmental contaminants, poaching, land use changes particularly conversion of large areas to intensive crop cultivation, changes in cropping pattern due to various reasons including implementation of irrigation schemes, increased pesticide usage and livestock-grazing, high levels of disturbance, developmental activities like mining and hydel projects. Threats posed by infrastructure development, such as collisions with vehicles, power-lines and wind turbines, further exacerbate the situation.

(c) The steps taken by Government for conservation of remaining habitats in wet lands, grass lands and forests and river line across the country and species dependent on them are given below:—

1. Financial and Technical assistance is provided to State/Union Territory Governments for protection and Management of Protected Areas as well as other forests under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
2. India is signatory to several major international conventions relating to conservation and management of wildlife, including endangered species of birds. These are, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
3. The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for protection of wildlife including birds. The Act, *inter-alia*, provides for creation of Protected Areas for protection of wild life and also provides for punishment for hunting of specified fauna including birds specified in the schedules-I to IV thereof. Important habitats of birds have been notified as Protected Areas under the Act.
4. Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 have been framed for protection of wetlands, in the States, which are habitats of birds. The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-System also provides assistance to the States for management of wet lands including Ramsar sites in the country.
5. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established for control of illegal trade in wildlife, including endangered species of birds and their parts and products.
6. Research and monitoring activities on birds are promoted by the Government through reputed research organizations. Wildlife Institute of India, Bombay Natural History society and Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History are some of the research organizations undertaking research on conservation of birds.
7. The Indian Government has banned the veterinary use of diclofenac drug that has caused rapid population decline of Gyps vulture across the Indian

Subcontinent. Conservation Breeding Programmes to conserve these vulture species have been initiated at Pinjore (Haryana), Buxa (West Bengal) and Rani, Guwahati (Assam) by the Bombay Natural History Society.

Statement

Details of bird species reported from India which are listed as critically endangered in IUCN Red list version 2013.2

| Sl. No. | Common name | Scientific name |
|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Baer's Pochard | Aythya baeri |
| 2. | Forest Owlet | Heteroglaux blewitti |
| 3. | Great Indian Bustard | Ardeotis nigriceps |
| 4. | Bengal Florican | Houbaropsis bengalensis |
| 5. | Siberian Crane | Grus leucogeranus |
| 6. | Spoon-billed Sandpiper | Eurynorhynchus pygmeus |
| 7. | Sociable Lapwing | Vanellus gregarius |
| 8. | Jerdon's Courser | Rhinoptilus bitorquatus |
| 9. | White backed Vulture | Gyps bengalensis |
| 10. | Red-headed Vulture | Sarcogyps calvus |
| 11. | White-bellied Heron | Ardeia insignis |
| 12. | Slender-billed Vulture | Gyps tenuirostris |
| 13. | Indian Vulture | Gyps indicus |
| 14. | Himalayan Quail | Ophrysias superciliosa |
| 15. | Pink-headed Duck | Rhodonessacus aeryllacea |

Dependence of NGT on the Ministry

1652. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Green Tribunal's (NGT's) dependence on the Ministry for budgetary and administrative support circumscribes its independent functioning;