

for resistance to antibiotic drugs if, the wastes are not disposed in a scientific manner. Presence of antibiotics in excess of Predicted No Effect Concentration (PNEC) in The environment may lead to development of Anti-Microbial Resistance.

(b) The State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees stipulate the effluent discharge standards while granting consent to operate to pharmaceutical units for discharging treated wastewater into inland surface water or land for irrigation or Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), Pharmaceutical units are required to treat their effluents before discharge in Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) in order to comply with the notified standards. In order to manage waste generated from the Health Care Facilities, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified Biomedical Waste Management Rules 2016. These rules prescribe methods for segregation, collection, treatment, processing and disposal of the bio-medical waste as well as discharge norms for effluents of health care facilities in an environmentally sound manner.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has notified effluent discharge standards prescribed for Pharmaceutical (Manufacturing and Formulation) Industries under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 except for antibiotic residue. Looking into the health impact of AMR, the Government has initiated National Action Plan for Anti-Microbial Resistance in India, to ensure regulation of antibiotics concentration in industrial effluents as one of the preventives/corrective measures. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has drafted standards for pharmaceutical industries including anti-biotic residues.

Decline in number of Great Indian Bustards

3204. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRARAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a rapid decline of numbers of Great Indian Bustards due to air turbines and overhead power lines;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is taking any steps to save the Great Indian Bustards in their natural habitats in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO) : (a) and (b) There has been

decline in population of Great Indian Bustard (GIB) (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) due to various reasons *inter alia* collision with wind mill turbines and electrocution from overhead power lines. At present there are around 150 GIB in the country. The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has mapped all major power lines within the critical bustard habitats of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan and Kachchh, Gujarat. The satellite tagged Bustards in Kachchh, Gujarat have also provided invaluable information on the movement patterns of these birds in these areas. Based on this, power lines that need to be mitigated by undergrounding and installation of bird diverters has been recommended by Wildlife Institute of India.

Considering the gravity of matter, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has requested the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Power to direct the power supply agencies to implement the mitigation measures such as installation of bird diverters on power lines, undergrounding of power lines up to 33 KV, painting of vanes of wind turbines etc.

(c) Important efforts made by the Government for conservation of Great Indian Bustards are as given below:

- (i) The Great Indian Bustard is listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby, according them highest degree of legal protection from hunting.
- (ii) Important habitats of Great Indian Bustards are designated as National Parks/ Sanctuaries for their better protection.
- (iii) The species has been identified for conservation efforts under the component 'Species Recovery Programme' of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) - Development of Wildlife Habitat. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Wildlife Habitat for providing better protection to GIB and its habitat.
- (iv) Ministry has taken up an initiative on conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) in collaboration with Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra Forest Departments and technical support from Wildlife Institute of India (WH), Dehradun. The Ministry with financial support from National Authority for Compensatory Afforestation Funds has sanctioned an outlay of ₹ 33.85

crores for the duration of five years for the programme titled 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-an integrated approach'. The important objective of this programme is to build up captive population of GIB and to release the chicks in the wild for increasing the population and also to promote *in-situ* conservation of the species.

- (v) In consultation with State Government, Wildlife Institute of India and international experts, a site for establishment of Conservation breeding Centre has been identified in Kota District, Rajasthan under the above mentioned project.
- (vi) Ministry has also constituted a Task Force for suggesting Eco-friendly measures to mitigate impacts of power transmission lines and other power transmission infrastructures on wildlife including the GIB.

Conservation of grasslands

3205. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any strategy to restrict the exploitation of grasslands for other uses and bring a policy for conservation and management of grasslands as they are natural habitat for several birds; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO) : (a) and (b) Management and conservation of wildlife habitats including grassland is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. The Ministry provides financial assistance under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' to the State/UT Governments for various activities including development and maintenance of grassland in Protected Areas.

Several Protected Areas in the country are having grassland habitats. Few examples are Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary, Maharashtra; Gaga (Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary) and Kutch Bustard Sanctuary, Gujarat; Desert National Park, Rajasthan; Rollapadu Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh; Ranebennur sanctuary, Karnataka; Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and Eravikulam National Park, Kerala; Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal