

It may be seen from above data that Defence Budget as a percentage of GDP may appear to be decreasing due to increasing trend in the growth of GDP. However, it is increasing in absolute terms, implying higher spending. In BE 2019-20, Total Defence Budget (including Miscellaneous and Pensions) is ₹ 4,31,010.79 crore, for the year 2019-20, which is 15.47% of TOTAL Central Government Expenditure. In BE 2019-20, Capital Budget of Ministry of Defence is approximately 31.97% of the Total capital expenditure of the Central Government Expenditure.

(b) The expenditure on operations/ 'maintenance and Defence Infrastructure has been maintained optimally.

(c) Details of Capital Budget which includes expenditure on modernization and equipment for the last three years including the current year are as follows:-

(₹ in Crore)		
Year	Budget Estimates	Expenditure
2016-17*	86,340.00	86,370.92
2017-18	86,488.01	90,438.39
2018-19	93,9821.13	95,229.06
2019-20	1,03,394.31	91,862.97#

* includes figures of Seven Departments which were shifted to MoD (Civil)

Expenditure is upto January, 2020.

Conservation of endangered migratory species

1160. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far for inclusion of the endangered Asiatic Elephant, Great Indian Bustard and Bengal Florican in the world list of Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken any initiative for conservation of migratory species; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had submitted proposals to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) for listing Asian Elephant, Great Indian Bustard and Bengal Florican in Appendix I of the CMS.

The CMS had considered the proposals during the 13th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to CMS held from 15-22 February 2020 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat and approved for listing the Asian Elephant, Great Indian Bustard and Bengal Florican in Appendix I of the CMS.

(b) and (c) The important initiatives taken by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for conservation of migratory species include:

- (i) Several important habitats of migratory species have been declared as Protected Areas.
- (ii) Rare and endangered species listed in the Appendices of CMS and found in India, like Snow Leopard, Olive Ridley Turtles, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, etc. have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them highest degree of protection.
- (iii) Stringent punishments have been provided in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for violation of provisions of the Act.
- (iv) A National Action Plan for conservation of migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway has been launched.
- (v) Local communities have been involved in conservation of migratory species, like Amur Falcon protection in State of Nagaland; Whale Shark protection in Gujarat; Dugong protection in Tamil Nadu; Olive Ridley Turtles in Odisha, etc.
- (vi) India is a signatory to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and India has also signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on conservation of species including Siberian Cranes, marine Turtles, Dugongs and Raptors.