

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2090
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06/08/2021

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ORNITHOLOGY

2090. SHRI SANJAY SETH:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any specific programme/project for the development of Agricultural Ornithology aimed at controlling insects and pests affecting agricultural crops;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details regarding the breeding of insectivorous birds in the country;
- (c) the details of funds allocated for the implementation of such projects during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether Government of Karnataka has submitted any specific proposal in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) The All India Network Project (AINP) on Agricultural Ornithology was initiated by ICAR in 1982 at five centers, which is now part of All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management (from 2015 onwards). This project works on the **role of insectivorous birds in suppressing the crop pests** along with main objective of monitoring of depredatory birds (dynamics and community structure in relation to crop and the extent of crop damage) and their management in Agricultural landscape.

The **program on the role of insectivorous birds in suppressing the crop pests** is continuing at five centers namely (i) Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Telangana; (ii) Punjab Agricultural University, Punjab; (iii) Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat; (iv) Assam Agricultural University, Assam; and (v) Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala.

(b) In agricultural landscape, a total of 482 insectivorous birds have been identified in the predation of different crop pests. The study on breeding and biology of 36 insectivorous and 07 raptor species has been conducted in the project. The insectivorous birds and their nestlings predominantly feed only on insects including crop pests.

(c) About 15% of Rs.115.14 lakhs fund allotted to AINP on Vertebrate Pest Management has been allocated during 2018-19 to 2020-21 to meet the objective of the project by the centers in addressing the program on **role of insectivorous birds in suppressing the crop pests.**

(d) Karnataka State is represented by the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore as one of the cooperating centers in All India Network Project on Vertebrate Pest Management.

(e) The existing UAS Bangalore center has been allocated the work on insectivorous birds as one of the programs during the current financial year.
