

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4056**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.04.2022

**Role of vultures in environment purification**

4056. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government subscribes to the view that vultures are environment purifiers, and they also play a significant role in checking the spread of dangerous diseases;
- (b) if so, the concrete measures that have been taken/being taken by Government to save the vultures; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Scientific reports indicate that vultures are nature's most efficient scavengers and prevent the outbreak of epidemics by cleaning the carcasses.
- (b) The important steps taken by the Government to save the vultures and increase their number include:
  - (i) Four species of vultures namely, *Gypaetus barbatus*, *Gyps indicus*, *Gyps bengalensis* and *Gyps tenuirostris* have been listed on Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and all other species of Vultures belonging to Accipitridae family have been listed on the Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - (ii) The Government of India has banned the veterinary use of the drug 'Diclofenac'. The vial size of the drug 'Diclofenac' for human consumption has been restricted to 3ml to prevent its use in livestock.
  - (iii) Safety testing of various veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, available in the market to identify their toxicity to vultures.
  - (iv) Vulture safe zones have been identified in different parts of the country for conservation of the remnant population of vultures.
  - (v) Eight Vulture Conservation Breeding Centers have been established in India.

- (vi) India has launched an Action Plan for Vulture Conservation (2020-2025) on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.
- (vii) The Ministry has also taken initiatives to strengthen mass education and awareness for vulture conservation in the country.
- (viii) Government of India provides funding support to the State under Centrally Sponsored Scheme- Development of Wildlife Habitats for conservation of vultures under the Species Recovery Programme.

(c) Does not arise.

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