

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1324
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2022

Reviving the dwindling population of Great Indian Bustard

1324. SHRI. K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan to revive the dwindling population of Great Indian Bustard in the country, specifically in the State of Rajasthan;
- (b) the present status of the proposal submitted by the State Government of Rajasthan regarding in-situ conservation of Great Indian Bustard in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan; and
- (c) by when the proposal will be accepted and funds be released for implementation of the project?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) The Ministry has taken various steps for conservation and protection of Great Indian Bustard in the country, including the State of Rajasthan. Some of the measures taken for conservation of Great Indian Bustard are as follows:
 - i. 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 scheme for providing better protection to Great Indian Bustard and its habitat.
 - ii. The Ministry has taken initiative for conservation breeding of the Great Indian Bustard in collaboration with Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra Forest Departments and technical support from Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. The Ministry has sanctioned an outlay of Rs. 33.85 crores for the duration of seven years for the programme titled 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-an integrated approach'. The objective of this programme is to build up captive population of Great Indian Bustard and to release the chicks in

the wild for increasing the population and also to promote in-situ conservation of the species.

- iii. Sites for establishment of a Conservation Breeding Centres for the Great Indian Bustard and Lesser Florican birds have been identified at Baran and Jaisalmer Districts, Rajasthan in consultations with State Forest Departments of Rajasthan and Gujarat, Wildlife Institute of India and international experts, under the project titled 'Habitat Improvement and Conservation Breeding of Great Indian Bustard-an integrated approach'. Currently, a satellite conservation breeding facility with incubator, hatcher, chick rearing and housing for captive birds has been established at Sam, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. A total of twenty GIB chicks, artificially hatched from eggs collected from wild, are being reared in this conservation breeding facility.
- iv. Important habitats of Great Indian Bustards are designated as National Parks/ Sanctuaries for their better protection.
- v. The Great Indian Bustard is listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according it the highest degree of legal protection from hunting.

- (b) and (c) The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/ Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Wildlife Habitats for conservation of wildlife, including for Great Indian Bustard. A proposal was received in the Ministry from the Government of Rajasthan for *in-situ* conservation of Great Indian Bustard. The Ministry has communicated to the Government of Rajasthan that the proposal should be approved by the State Board for Wild Life and submitted for consideration of funding support.
