

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024

Flora and fauna in Punjab

1165. SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the declining bird species diversity and declining summer breeding in Punjab, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by Government to protect diversity and enhance the breeding rate in Punjab; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to protect Ramsar sites in Punjab?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) As informed by the State of Punjab, declining trend has been observed in the population of birds at Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary and Ropar Wetland Conservation Reserve as per details given below:

Name of wetland	2020		2021		2022		2023	
	No. of species	Count	No. of species	Count	No. of species	Count	No. of species	Count
Ropar	56	3808	52	3447	44	1467	43	1764
Nangal	33	4553	41	3797	39	3325	33	3135

- (b) The important steps taken for protection of diversity and enhancing the breeding rate in the state of Punjab include:
 - (i) In Punjab, three major wetlands Harike, Kanjali and Ropar are recognized as Important Bird Areas and these areas harbor several threatened and congregatory species of birds including Vulnerable species like Ferruginous Duck, Pallas's Fishing Eagle, Black-bellied

Tern, Greater Spotted Eagle, Indian Skimmer and near threatened avian species like Oriental Darter, Painted Stork, Asian Openbill, White-backed vulture and Long-billed vulture.

- (ii) Removal of invasive floating vegetation i.e. water hyacinth has been done from Ramsar site wetlands like Harike and Kanjali to improve the growth of native aquatic vegetation in the wetlands.

(c) The important steps taken by the Government to protect Ramsar Sites in the State of Punjab are as follows:

- (i) All six Ramsar sites of Punjab have been designated as Protected Areas under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to emphasize protection and conservation of wildlife.
- (ii) National Wetland Committee is implementing a National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic ecosystems (NPCA) for conservation and management of wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. It aims at holistic conservation and restoration of wetlands including lakes for achieving the desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and ecosystems through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach.
- (iii) State Wetland Authority of Punjab functions as an apex body for integrated management of wetlands and District Level Wetland Management Committees have been constituted under its jurisdiction for coordination, development and management of wetlands at the ground level.
