

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1986
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

Conservation of vultures

1986. SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:

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

- (a) the measures taken by Government for conservation of Vultures particularly in Haryana;
- (b) the details of vultures breeding centres set up in the country in the last three years, particularly in Haryana;
- (c) whether any special fund has been created dedicated to vulture conservation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) The important steps taken to save vultures include the following:

- (i) All the nine species of vultures found in India are listed in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing them with the highest degree of protection.
- (ii) In August 2006, the Drugs Controller General of India banned the use, sale and manufacture of Diclofenac veterinary use.
- (iii) The vial size of the Diclofenac use for human use has been restricted to 3 ml to prevent its misuse in treating livestock.
- (iv) The Government of India has restricted the packaging of multi-dose vial of Diclofenac to single dose for human use in July, 2015.
- (v) The Government of India has prohibited the manufacture, sale and distribution of Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac and their formulations for veterinary use in July, 2023.
- (vi) Over-counter sale of veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs without prescription are prohibited.
- (vii) An Action Plan for Vulture Conservation was launched by the Ministry in November, 2020.
- (viii) Vultures have been identified as one of the 22 species for providing funding support to the States/Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife habitats for their conservation of vultures under the Species Recovery Programme.
- (ix) Eight Vulture Conservation Breeding Centres have been set up across India.

The first Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre was established in 2004 at Pinjore, Haryana. Subsequently, two more centres were set up at Rajabhatkhawa, West Bengal (2006) and Rani, Assam (2008). The Central Zoo Authority sanctioned the setting of Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre at Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh; Nandankanan Zoo, Bhubanewhwar, Odisha; Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, Telangana, and Sakkarbaug Zoo, Junagadh, Gujarat in 2007 and Muta Zoo, Ranchi, Jharkhand in 2009.

- (c) and (d) The Ministry provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme –Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats which includes ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ and ‘Project Tiger and Elephant’ which aims at conservation and protection of wildlife and improvement of habitat including vultures.

The details of funds released to State/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ and ‘Project Tiger and Elephant’ during last three years are at **Annexure I** and **Annexure II**.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (c) and (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1986 due for reply on 12.12.2024 regarding “Conservation of Vultures”.

Details of funds released to State/ UT Governments under CSS-‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ during last three years.

(₹. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	A& N Islands	135.77	25.125	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	419.80617	276.44062	672.462
3	Assam	0	209.1464	565.10763
4	Bihar	410.85952	0	336.37223
5	Chandigarh	0	21.6241	16.498
6	Chhattisgarh	274.5903	104.457	116.24868
7	Goa	0	0	50.10
8	Gujarat	0	200.01	206.99
9	Haryana	127.331	30.1575	167.85
10	Himachal Pradesh	197.09452	114.3205	94.15328
11	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	69.57972
12	Jharkhand	79.53315	0	14.91025
13	Karnataka	1256.59314	291.71146	581.52346
14	Kerala	295.7737	224.4735	921.0361
15	Madhya Pradesh	389.34906	265.5508	471.81959
16	Maharashtra	0	350.3879	554.69645
17	Manipur	142.50646	180.64379	231.72407
18	Meghalaya	530.51253	0	243.56611
19	Mizoram	198.9678	190.1977	304.207
20	Nagaland	342.0315	725.6565	1306.3275
21	Odisha	726.80273	967.4976	1005.08612
22	Rajasthan	1007.64845	86.78886	0
23	Sikkim	182.97174	239.66048	187.03237
24	Tamil Nadu	390.75715	132.95205	373.8902
25	Uttar Pradesh	169.06261	266.7472	290.64425
26	Uttarakhand	226.34415	212.9662	498.497
27	West Bengal	757.25599	201.30866	385.29988
28	Puducherry	0	0	5.22
29	Lakshadweep	462.086	269.9055	124.655
30	Tripura	0	0	186.05514
31	Ladakh UT	31.95	61.11591	0.06
	Grand Total	8755.59767	5648.84523	9981.61203

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (c) and (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1986 due for reply on 12.12.2024 regarding “Conservation of Vultures”.

Details of funds released to State/ UT Governments under CSS-‘Project Tiger and Elephant’ during last three years.

(₹. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24
		Project Tiger	Project Elephant	Project Tiger	Project Elephant	*Project Tiger & Elephant
1	Andhra Pradesh	292.11	20.5565	0.00	0.00	149.421
2	Arunachal Pradesh	869.08	157.7615	0.00	26.8875	1119.9145
3	Assam	1476.75	126.716	336.22	167.4	2619.3078
4	Bihar	552.72	-	0.00	0.00	308.9825
5	Chhattisgarh	355.85	24.785	82.88	0.00	292.855
6	Haryana	0.00	4.2345	0.00	17.4	26.1
7	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.61
8	Jharkhand	195.06	86.682	17.26	78.05	405.785
9	Karnataka	2956.70	261.195	235.24	97.8453	2613.0834
10	Kerala	868.78	580.96765	417.59	270.09	996.22425
11	Madhya Pradesh	3523.52	12.613	1172.51	11.388	4303.794
12	Maharashtra	2991.06	-	0.00	28.524	2614.4517
13	Manipur	0.00	5.40	0.00	0.00	14.121
14	Meghalaya	0.00	141.75	0.00	32.14	65.25
15	Mizoram	374.13	-	0.00	0.00	144
16	Nagaland	0.00	279.759	0.00	235.575	337.77
17	Odisha	1056.86	567.045	190.27	212.7695	1012.5876
18	Rajasthan	841.05	15.18	0.00	6.18609	968.3004
19	Tamil Nadu	1576.22	181.8464	0.00	85.9405	2547.9665
20	Telangana	543.26	-	0.00	0	323.308
21	Tripura	-	-	0.00	7.36516	27.0855
22	Uttarakhand	1463.71	244.12375	0.00	18.7415	1495.5241
23	Uttar Pradesh	1304.85	45.993	0.00	9.858	1031.9767
24	West Bengal	708.28	87.8717	0.00	30.05	522.58101
		21949.99	2844.48	2451.97	1336.211	23960

*Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Elephant and Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Tiger have been merged and now known as Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Tiger & Elephant

The continuation of the scheme as WDC-PMKSY 2.0 has been approved by the Government on 15 December 2021. Under WDC PMKSY 2.0, total 1150 watershed projects covering an area of 50.16 lakh ha at a total cost of Rs.12303.33 crore have been sanctioned to States/UTs by the Department of Land Resources, GoI for implementation of projects from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26. An amount of Rs.4527.92 crore (as on 04.12.2024) has been released as Central share to the States/UTs for 6 States covering Western Ghat region. The State-wise details of projects sanctioned area covered, project cost and Central funds released from 2019-20 to 2024-25 (as on 04.12.2024) for these States is given at **Annexure I**.

The activities undertaken in scheme inter alia include soil & moisture conservation measures, rain water harvesting measures, afforestation, horticulture and pasture development, livelihood activities, production system support and capacity building, etc.

End-line evaluation reports of completed projects reveal that there is significant improvement in availability of surface & ground water, increase in productivity, vegetative cover, enhanced livelihood opportunities and household incomes in project areas.

The details of physical and financial progress made under WDC-PMKSY2.0 in during the 2019-2024 for 6 States of Western Ghat region are given at **Annexure II**.

- (c) & (d) In consonance with the National Forest Policy 1988, the local communities are involved through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in the management of forests and various afforestation activities. Various schemes including Green India Mission are being implemented by the Ministry and the State/UT governments with the participation of these committees. Further, for the management of the Wildlife Protected Areas, Eco Development Committees (EDCs) are also formed to ensure people participation in wildlife conservation.