

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10. Rajasthan		185.00	118.00	117.00	122.00	127.00	130.00
11. Sikkim		1.10	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
12. Uttar Pradesh		109.20	80.00	90.00	98.30	113.80	103.80
13. West Bengal		120.00	90.00	90.00	105.00	110.00	110.00

Regularisation of Forest Land

538. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any survey report in regard to the encroached forest land for regularisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (c) No proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been received so far for regularisation of encroachment on forest land.

[English]

Protection of endangered species

539. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) The comparative figures of population of each of the endangered species as per the census figures of the last three censuses;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the collusion of poachers with forest guards and police personnel is threatening the survival of endangered species in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government have propose to take any strict action/laws to curb such activities to protect the forests and issue guidelines to the State Government to follow; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The comparative figures of last three censuses of major endangered species are given below :

S. No.	Name of Species	Year		
		1984	1989	1993
1.	Tiger	4005	4334	3759
2.	Lowpard	4744	6763	6828
3.	Elephant	18960 (1985)	17635 Min. to 24090 Max.	22796 Min. to 28346 Max.
4.	Rhinos	N.A.	1591	1566 (1995)
5.	Lion	239 (1985)	284 (1990)	304 (1995)

(b) No case of collusion of officials with poachers has been reported.

(c) and (d) A number of steps are being taken to protect endangered species. These include: Providing legal protection against hunting and commercial exploitation under the wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; providing assistance to the States for development of national parks and sanctuaries; implementing special projects for endangered species such as tiger, elephants, rhino etc; controlling poaching and illegal trade of wildlife through interdepartmental co-ordination and providing antipoaching infrastructure in specified areas. Besides, amendment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Indian Forest Act, 1927 has been taken on hand to make the penal provisions of these Acts more stringent.

Strike Force for Project Tiger

540. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a Mobile Strike Force equipped with wireless sets, guns, motorcycles and jeeps for protecting the endangered tigers in the tiger reserves of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for the welfare of the staff posted in these tiger reserves ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN