

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2308  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2000  
PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE TREASURE  
A.K. PREMAJAM;BASUDEB ACHARIA

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

- (a) whether his Ministry has admitted its failure to protect the country's wildlife treasure;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government have identified the persons involved for such failure ; and
- (d) if so, the action taken against them ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS,

(SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a),(b),(c) & (d): Certain bottlenecks in effective conservation of wildlife have been identified by the Ministry. Due to the lucrative prices offered for various wildlife products outside the country, there has been a spurt in the illegal trade and poaching of various species of wild animals. Several offenders have been apprehended for indulgence in wildlife crimes. Concrete steps have also been taken to strengthen the enforcement mechanism. These steps include:

1. Rendering of financial, technical and scientific assistance to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger, Eco-Development Around Protected Areas to ensure long term survival of wildlife in their natural habitat.

2. Providing legal protection against hunting and commercial exploitation of wild animals under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

3. Setting up of Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment and Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife. Similar Committees have been established at State level and District level in various States.

4. Authorising Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to apprehend offenders and launch prosecution in wildlife offences.

5. Providing assistance to State Government for strengthening the infrastructure through involvement of Armed Squads and Strike Forces drawn out of paramilitary forces and State Armed Constabulary.

6. Periodic meetings with State Government for effective monitoring of protection measures undertaken.

7 Regional and sub regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set up mostly at the main export center of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife and its derivatives.