

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1278
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2001
PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Wildlife Preservation Departments are ill equipped to conduct raids or to protect the various wildlife sanctuaries ;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof ; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a)&(b) Protection and conservation of wildlife is the responsibility of the State Governments. Ban on recruitment of forestry and wildlife personnel has adversely affected the protection efforts both within and outside the protected areas. Lack of effective communication network, inadequate mobility and sophisticated arms further compound the situation. There is also need for upgrading skill in intelligence gathering, investigation and prosecution of cases.

(c) The steps taken by the Government in this regard are:

(i) Hon'ble Prime Minister has written to the Chief Ministers of all the States expressing concern on the increased poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its derivatives. He has requested the Chief Ministers to fill up the vacant posts, provide adequate training, develop effective mechanism for intelligence gathering and to set up designated Courts for trying wildlife offences.

(ii) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments for development and protection of protected areas under various schemes.

(iii) The Wildlife Institute of India provides training to the field officers in wildlife management.

(iv) The State Governments have been requested to reorganize their field protection staff into viable formations with greater mobility, sophisticated fire arms and effective communication network.

(v) Training in intelligence gathering and investigation techniques is organized for the officers of the State forest department by the National Police Academy, Hyderabad.

(vi) The Central Bureau of investigation has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

(vii) The State Governments have been requested to set up Special Coordination Committees both at the State and District level to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.