

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:98
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
EXTINCTION OF ASIAN RHINOS
ANANTA NAYAK

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

- (a) whether the Asian Rhinos in the country are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken to save these exotic rare animals?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Technical and financial assistance is provided by the Central Government to the rhino bearing states of Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh for activities like habitat improvement, strengthening of protection and communication infrastructure, anti-poaching drive, Ecodevelopment works, etc. Rhino is in Schedule I of Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 and therefore has been provided highest degree of protection. Also, Government of India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items across the border.