

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6012  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003  
PROTECTION OF TIBETIAN DEER  
AKHILESH SINGH

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

- (a) the State-wise locations wherein Tibetan deers are found along with their present number;
- (b) whether these deers are reportedly being poached in large number in order to smuggle their skin; and
- (c) if so, the details of action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against poachers and for protection of `Chirus`?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

- (a) In India, the presence of the Tibetan antelope has been reported from the state of Jammu and Kashmir, where it occurs in areas of Ladakh bordering Tibet. No scientific census has been conducted in the recent years for Chiru. However, the census conducted in 1996 by State Forest Department of Jammu and Kashmir and Wildlife Institute of India estimated their population between 250-300 individuals.
- (b) No incident of poaching of Chiru for procuring its skin has been reported from Indian side of its range.
- (c) The measures taken for protection of Chiru include:
  1. Chiru has been listed in the Schedule I of the J&K Wildlife (Protection) Act and the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 and therefore has been provided highest degree of protection under law.
  2. A comprehensive programme has been initiated to rehabilitate Kashmiri Shatoosh artisans to wean them away from Shatoosh based trade.