

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6073
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
SAMBHAR AND SALGARS KILLED BY FOREST OFFICERS
AKHILESH YADAV

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

- (a) whether forest officers of Takhni sanctuary in Punjab Killed a Sambhar and two Salgars for their consumption;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the matter;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure protection of wildlife and check the recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

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

- (a), (b) & (c) No, Sir. Forest Officers of Takhni- Rehmapur Sanctuary have not killed Sambar or Salgar for their consumption. However, carcasses of a Sambar and a Salgar were found in Takhni-Rehmapur Sanctuary, Hoshiarpur and after preliminary enquiry the Inspector, incharge of the sanctuary, has been suspended for dereliction of duty.
- (d) The steps taken by the Government to ensure protection of wildlife include:
- (i) The Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 has been amended providing for more stringent punishment in wildlife related offences.
 - (ii) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.
 - (iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
 - (iv) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.
 - (v) Export of wild animals and their derivatives is prohibited under EXIM policy.
 - (vi) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.