

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:207
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2000
POACHERS OF WILD LIFE
M. CHINNASAMY

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

- (a) whether organised gangs of poachers of wild life and smugglers of timber are on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action taken against them; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to curtail their activities ?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Recent seizures indicate that significant poaching of Wildlife and illegal felling of trees has been taking place. Important seizures made during last one year include 21 tiger skins, 249 leopard skins, 18080 leopard nails, 137 tiger nails, 221 black buck skins, 11000 lizard skins and about 200 wagons of timber. Control on poaching of wildlife and illegal felling of trees is the primary responsibility of the State Government. However, the Ministry have been taking all possible steps to ensure effective control on poaching of wildlife and illegal felling. Steps are taken for effective implementation of provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other regulatory Acts. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. A special Co-ordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up at centre for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife. State Governments have been advised to set up similar committees at the State and district level. A Special Investigating Team has been constituted by the Ministry for investigation, seizure, confiscation, fixation of responsibilities for illegal movement of timber etc. from North Eastern States. Consolidated guidelines have been issued to regulate movement of timber through Railways from the North Eastern States.