

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:13  
ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004  
ILLEGAL IVORY TRADE  
Nayak Shri Ananta

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that there is an increase in the illegal Ivory trade in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of such incidents which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years;
- (d) the States where such incidents are on rise; and
- (e) the steps taken to curb illegal trade of Ivory?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) The available information does not suggest any increasing trend in the overall volume of the illegal ivory trade in the country.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The Central Government has received information about 38, 51 and 41 cases of seizure of illegal ivory by various enforcement agencies in the country during the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively.
- (d) Some marginal increase in the incidences of seizure of illegal ivory has been reported from three states, namely Assam, Tamilnadu and West Bengal during the last three years.
- (e) The Central Government has prohibited domestic trade as well as import and export of ivory. The Government amended the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in 2002 to provide for stringent penalties including forfeiture of property for the persons indulging in illegal ivory trade. The Government has also empowered the C.B.I. under the said Act to apprehend and prosecute the wildlife offenders. The Government provides financial assistance to the major elephant-bearing states under Project Elephant for strengthening protection measures. India is also a party to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) which prohibits international trade in ivory. During the last three years, the State Forest Departments, Police and other enforcement agencies have reportedly arrested 152 persons on charges relating to possessing or trading in illegal ivory.