

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2286
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
POACHING OF WILD LIFE
Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any review on the success achieved by the Government to stop poaching of wild life;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such cases have increased manifold particularly after passing the wild Life Protection Act;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) The Government has been reviewing the situation of poaching of wildlife in the country from time to time and has been acting on the recommendations of such reviews. As a result of the last review done by the Tiger Task Force, the Government has created the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau vide Gazette Notification dated 6th June 2007.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. The poaching of wildlife has been mainly influenced by the high market price in the clandestine international markets clubbed with man-animal conflicts. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, on the other hand, has enabled the enforcement agencies in prevention, detection, monitoring and prosecution of wildlife offenders. Enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has brought the cases of poaching to the notice of the public.

(e) The steps taken by Government to check poaching of wildlife are as follows:

- i) Legal protection has been provided to endangered wild animals, including Tiger, Lion, Elephant, Leopard, Rhino, Wild Buffalo, Tibetan Antelope, Marine turtles, Corals, etc, against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence.
- iii) National Parks and Sanctuaries have been created as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to wildlife and their habitat.
- iv) Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wild animals.
- v) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- vi) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.
- vii) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
- viii) Strict vigil is maintained through effective communication system.