

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1578

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008

POACHING OF INSECTS

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether cases of insect poaching are increasing in the country as reported in Mint dated 25 August, 2008;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases that have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to control the insect poaching in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Sporadic cases of poaching of insects have been brought to the notice of this Ministry. As per the information available with the Ministry, in one such instance, two persons from Czechoslovakia were arrested for trying to smuggle insects including beetles, moths and larvae during July 2008 in Darjeeling District of West Bengal. Another seizure of insects was made during April 2008 from Mumbai, where four number of triangular lamp shades with butterflies were seized. However, there are no reports indicating an increase in the poaching of insects in the country.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to protect insects include the following:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife conservation. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.
2. Some of the important species of insects are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them full protection.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub regional offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz, 'Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' to State/UT Governments for the conservation and protection of wildlife including insects and their habitats.
5. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas is carried out in coordination with other law enforcement agencies for the conservation of wildlife.
6. Nature awareness campaigns for the public are conducted regularly.
7. Eco-development activities are initiated in the fringe villages to solicit people's participation in conservation.