

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:41

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009

EXTINCTION OF WILD ANIMALS

Agarwal Shri Dharendra;Murmu Shri Hemlal

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

- (a) whether incidents of killings of wild animals have been reported in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases that have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years and the current year alongwith the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether several rare species of animals in the country are on the verge of extinction; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to address this problem?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 41 REGARDING "EXTINCTION OF WILD ANIMALS" BY SHRI HEMMAL MURMU AND DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL DUE FOR REPLY ON 18-02-2009.

(a)&(b) Incidents of killing of wild animals have been reported from the State/ UT Governments from time to time. Such killing of wild animals generally occurs due to poaching, electrocution, poisoning, retaliation against man-animal conflict, etc. As per the information received from the State/ UT Governments, the details of the major flagship species of wild animals killed during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure. The State/ UT Governments take action in such cases as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c)&(d) Fluctuations in the population of wild animals occur due to various natural as well as anthropogenic factors such as loss and degradation of habitats, poaching, incorporation of poisonous substances in the food chain, etc. There are no specific scientific reports indicating that wild animals in India are on the verge of extinction. However, there are a few species like Vultures, Great Indian Bustard, etc. which have limited population status.

The steps taken by the Government for the protection of wildlife and to prevent the killing of wild animals, inter alia, include the following:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
5. The State/ UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.
6. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.
7. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', a new component has been added for initiating 'Recovery Programme for critically endangered species and their habitats' during the 11th five year plan period.