

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:996
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010
WILDLIFE DEATHS
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

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

- (a) whether instances of killing wildlife and smuggling of timber have been reported from A&N Islands during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) As per the information available in the Ministry, there have been instances of wild life crime in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands during the last 3 years. Details of the offence cases during the last 3 years and the current last year are given at Annexure.

(c) Steps taken to check such illegal activities are as follows:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are placed 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.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
5. The UT Government has been requested to strengthen the field information and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.
6. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the UT Governments under Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife. In addition to the above, the State Government has taken the following measures:
 - i. Patrolling in the vulnerable areas has been intensified.
 - ii. Temporary camps have been established in remote vulnerable areas to check forest offences.
 - iii. Strengthening of infrastructure, communication and other facilities for frontline staff.