

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2116

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

TASK FORCE ON PROTECTION OF ELEPHANT

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Anandan Shri K.Murugeshan;Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Karunakaran Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a task force on protection of wild and captive elephants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the aforesaid task force is likely to submit its report;
- (d) the present population of elephants in the country;
- (e) whether the Government also proposes to set up a task force for protection of rhinos;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(c)The Central Government has set up a Task Force on Project Elephant for giving detailed recommendations to upgrade the Project to bring about a more effective conservation and management regime for wild and captive elephants in India. The Task Force is headed by Dr. Mahesh Rangarajan with eleven other experts as Members. The Task Force has been given time till end May, 2010 to submit its Report.

(d) As per the last census done in the year 2007-08, the population of wild elephants in the country is between 27669 to 27719.

(e) There is no proposal at the moment to set up a Task Force for conservation and management of Rhinos.

(f) Question does not arise.