

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4331
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
OPENING OF NATIONAL PARKS
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) whether the poachers are most active during monsoons in the National Parks when it is closed to the tourist;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to open the National Parks throughout the year with the development of all weather roads so that tourism and patrolling by the forest officials is done throughout the year; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Protected Areas including National Parks are comparatively more vulnerable during the monsoon season because of damage to roads and other communication systems due to heavy rains.

(c)&(d) The Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has no proposal of issuing any directive to the State /Union Territory Governments for opening the National Parks throughout the year. Development of all weather roads in the Protected Areas including the National Parks is not encouraged as this may cause damage to the habitat and may also affect the free movement of wildlife. However, advisories are issued to the State /Union Territory Governments to intensify patrolling during the monsoon season in the Protected Areas including the National Parks.