

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5398
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
ILLEGAL CATCHING OF SNAKES
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

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

- (a) whether the snake charmers community is engaged in catching snakes and violating the Wildlife Protection Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the rules for banning of snakes catching are not implemented properly;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of these rules:
- (f) whether the Government has any policy for rehabilitation of snake charmers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c) & (d) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 prohibits collection and possession of 8 species and 14 families of snakes that are listed in various Schedules of the Act, but capturing of snakes for derivation, collection or preparation of snake-venom for the manufacturing of life saving drugs can be permitted by the State / Union Territory Chief Wildlife Wardens as per the provisions of the Act. However, possibility of illegal catching of snakes cannot be ruled out. Wherever such cases come to the notice of the Government, action against the offenders is taken as per the provisions of the Act.

(e) The steps taken by the Government for implementation of the rules are as follows:

- i) Stringent penalties have been provided in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for violation of provisions of the Act.
- ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- iii) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established for control of illegal trade in Wildlife, its parts & products.
- iv) Wide publicity is given on provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 against poaching.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.