

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1466
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
KILLING OF RHINOS
Roy Shri Mahendra Kumar

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

- (a) whether a large number of Rhinos have been killed by poachers during the last three years at Orang National Park in Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) As per the information received from the State Government, twelve Rhinos have been poached in Orang National Park during the last three years.

(c) Important steps taken by the Government for conservation of Wildlife including Rhinos in the country are as follows:

1. Threatened species of wildlife, including Rhinos 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 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.
8. The State Government has constituted District level Wildlife Coordination Committees for effective coordination and control of poaching. Further additional armed personnels have been engaged in all the National Parks.