

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1625
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL CELL FOR WILD LIFE VIOLATION
Pal Shri Jagdambika

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up a Special Cell to register the cases of violation of laws relating to wild-life in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases of violation of the said laws that have been reported during the last three years and the current year, Year-wise;and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to deal with such cases?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) In order to check the problem of violation of laws relating to wildlife in the country, Ministry of Environment & Forests has constituted the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, comprising of officials from Forests, Police and Customs. Main mandate of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau includes collection and collation of intelligence related to organized wildlife crime, coordination with State Governments and other authorities in connection with the enforcement of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, developing infrastructure and capacity building for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes.

(c) Details of cases of violations of concerned laws which have come to the notice of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau during the last three years and current year are given at Annexure.

(d) Important steps taken by the Government to deal such cases and protection of wildlife cases 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 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. Training courses are also conducted for other concerned departments and enforcement agencies like Customs, entral Police Forces etc for better appreciation of illegal wildlife trade.