

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:619
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
POACHING OF ELEPHANTS
Deora Shri Milind Murli;M.Thambidurai Dr.

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

- (a) whether a large number of elephants have been killed by poachers during the last two years in and around different national parks including Simlipal Tiger Reserve;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, National Park-wise;
- (c) whether the Union Government has conducted an inquiry into these killings;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the poaching of elephants?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) States have reported killing of 28 elephants due to poaching in the year 2008-09 & 2009-10. State wise detail, as reported, is annexed as Ministry does not collate the deaths National Park wise.

State Forest Department has reported death of 10 elephants in Simlipal Tiger Reserve during 2008-09 and 2009-10 out of which 02 deaths were due to poaching. Death of 6 more elephants since April, 2010 has been reported in Simlipal Tiger Reserve.

(c),(d) & (e) An Independent Team was constituted vide National Tiger Conservation Authority Office memorandum dt. 3rd June, 2010 for assessing the ground situation in Simlipal Tiger Reserve vis-a-vis the recent incidents of poaching/elephant death and to suggest measures to strengthen the protection initiatives. The Independent Team has submitted its report confirming elephant deaths. The Committee has also given 25 detailed recommendations for implementation which includes 10 recommendations as Immediate Priority. A copy of the Report has been sent to the State Government with a request to implement the recommendations. A State level Coordination Committee consisting of outside experts, State Police and Forest personnel has also been constituted for monitoring the progress of the recommendations.