

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2390
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
CROCODILES IN CHAMBAL
Argal Shri Ashok

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

- (a) the details of present population of Ghariyals/Crocodiles in Chambal Sanctuary area;
- (b) whether the Government has any information regarding death of Crocodiles/Ghariyals in Chambal Sanctuary area;
- (c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) As per information available, estimated population of Ghariyals and Crocodiles in National Chambal Sanctuary is about 800 and 300 respectively.
- (b)&(c) Details of mortality of Ghariyals and Crocodiles in Chambal Sanctuary during the last three years are given at Annexure. There are several reasons for the death of Ghariyals and Crocodiles including natural death, poaching, and possible affects of some toxins manifested as articular and visceral gout, infestation of nematodes and entanglement in the fishing nets etc.
- (d) Action taken by the Government to protect Ghariyals and Crocodiles and its habitat include the following:
 - (i) Ghariyal and Crocodile have been included in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby affording them highest degree of protection.
 - (ii) Important habitats of Ghariyals and Crocodiles like the Chambal River passing through the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajsthan and Uttar Pradesh have been declared as National Chambal Sanctuary.
 - (iii) Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for conservation and protection of wildlife including Ghariyal and Crocodile and their habitats.
 - (iv) Efforts are made by the State Governments to stop illegal sand mining from the river sanctuaries to avoid damage to the habitat of Ghariyals and Crocodiles.
 - (v) Breeding of Ghariyals in captivity has been successfully standardized and as and when required, captive bred Ghariyals are released into the river habitats.