

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:266

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

POACHING OF LEOPARDS

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

- (a) whether leopard had been notified as an endangered species;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the present population of leopard in each State/Union Territory;
- (d) whether there has been increase in the instances of poaching of the leopards particularly in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh;
- (e) if so, the number of deaths reported during each of the last three years, State/Union Territory; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for protection of leopards in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Leopard is a threatened species included in the Schedule- I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according the species the highest degree of protection.

(c),(d)& (e) Details of the population of the leopards and their poaching in the State/Union Territories are not compiled in the Ministry. However, details obtained from the States of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh indicated an estimated leopard population of 2335 in Uttarakhand and 210 in Uttar Pradesh. Details regarding the poaching of during the last three years in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh are given in the Annexure.

(f) Important steps taken by the Government for conservation of wildlife including leopard in the country are as follows:

1. Critically Endangered and Endangered species of wildlife are placed in the Schedule- I 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 including leopards and their habitats.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
5. The State/ Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around areas rich in wildlife.
6. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/Union Territory Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' of the Ministry for better protection and conservation of wildlife.