

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3679  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010  
RESOURCES OF A & N ISLANDS  
Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the coast of Andaman & Nicobar Islands are having abundant sea cucumbers; corals, etc.;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) Whether the northern Andaman Seas are being used as a good hunting ground by poachers?
- (d) If so, the details thereof, and
- (e) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent poaching of those valuable items from our seas?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS 9SHIR JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There are about 430 species of corals and about 110 species of Sea cucumber so far identified from the Andaman seas as per the report of the zoological Survey of India.

(c) & (d) the Indian Coast Guards, Police and navy have nabbed poachers, who are mainly foreign poachers, from Myanmar in northern Andaman sea from time to time in the recent past. Details of poaching during 2009 and 2010 (upto 24.11.2010) are as under:

Year No. of No. of Poachers Item & Quantity seized  
cases apprehended

2009 11 Myanmar-83 Sea Shell - 20 kg  
Sea cucumber - 100 kg  
Trochus - 50 kg

2010 35 Myanmar-149 Trochus - 25 kg  
Srilankan - 6 Sea cucumber - 2626 kg  
Thai - 4 and 1500 pieces

(e) Important steps taken by the Government to prevent poaching of those valuable items from the sea:

(i) Threatened species of Wildlife are placed in various Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according these species adequate protection.

(ii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.

(iii) A network of Protected Areas has been established to protect and conserve wildlife including rare animals and their habitats.

(iv) Wildlife Crime control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

(v) The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around forests and Protected Areas.

(vi) Patrolling in territorial waters has been intensified by the coast guard unit of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Joint patrolling by Police and Forest Officers are also carried out in the Union Territory coastal areas.

(vii) India is signatory to the convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

