

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:447

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

AMENDMENTS IN WILDLIFE (PROTECTION) ACT

Khair Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

(a) whether the Government had brought in amendments to the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 to prevent incidents of poaching and poisoning of tigers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of new initiatives taken up on the basis of the said amendments to the Wildlife (Protection) Act; and

(d) the details of achievements made thereupon?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, provision for punishment for poaching of tigers has been enhanced. Any person, who commits an offence in relation to the core area of a tiger reserve or where the offence relates to hunting in the tiger reserve or altering the boundaries of the tiger reserve, such offence shall be punishable on first conviction with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but may extend to seven years, and also with fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees but may extend to two lakh rupees; and in the event of a second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment for a term of not less than seven years and also with fine which shall not be less than five lakh rupees but may extend to fifty lakh rupees.

(c) & (d) The implementation of the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for control of wildlife crimes is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. To supplement the efforts of the State/Union Territories, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up as a multi-disciplinary agency under the administrative control of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, to deal with wildlife crimes having inter-state, cross-border and international ramifications.