

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4697
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010
THREAT OF EXTINCTION OF TURTLE
Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the three striped roof turtle "Kachuga dhonkoga" are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the International Union for Conservation of Nature has upgraded them to the status of "endangered" category and included in Action Plan Rating 3;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government for their conservation and checking their illegal smuggling to other countries?

Answer

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

(a),(b),(c)&(d) The three striped roof turtle Kachuga dhonkoga (also known as Batagur dhongoka) has been classified as 'Endangered' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The species is under threat because of consumption for subsistence by local populations in its distribution range, its utilization in trade, degradation of its riverine habitat due to pollution and disturbance at nesting sites.

(e) In order to augment the population of species, head start and captive breeding programmes have been taken up at the following places:

- i. Kukrail Centre Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- ii. Deori Crocodile and Turtle Rearing Centre, Madhya Pradesh
- iii. Freshwater Turtle Conservation and Education Centre in National Chambal Sanctuary, Garhaita, Itawah, Uttar Pradesh.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up by the Central Government to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.