

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1809

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

CHECK ON SMUGGLING OF WILD ANIMALS

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

- (a) whether smuggling of wild animals and trafficking of their derivatives/parts is increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the cases reported during the last three years, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has impressed upon all concerned agencies to check smuggling of wildlife;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) There are no reports in the Ministry indicating that smuggling of wild animals and trafficking of their derivatives/parts is increasing in the country.

(c),(d)&(e) The steps taken by the Government to protect wildlife and check smuggling of wildlife in the country are as follows:

- i. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals.
- ii. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
- iii. Threatened species of wildlife are placed in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
- iv. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
- v. The State/ UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.
- vi. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.
- vii. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', a new component has been added for initiating 'Recovery Programme for critically endangered species and their habitats' during the 11th Five Year plan period.
- viii. India is a 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.
- ix. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.
- x. India is also a founder member of the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT), which is an international forum working against wildlife crime.
- xi. The South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) has been launched in association with other SAARC countries for better trans-border cooperation in detection, apprehension and prosecution of wildlife offence cases.