

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:80  
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009  
DWINDLING POPULATION OF ENDANGERED ANIMALS  
M.Thambidurai Dr. ;Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh

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

- (a) whether the population of endangered animals including lions,tigers,elephants and olive, ridley sea turtles is dwindling in the country over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present population of these animals, sanctuary-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the deaths of these animals have been reported from various parts of the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 80 REGARDING "DWINDLING POPULATION OF ENDANGERED ANIMALS" BY SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU AND DR. M. THAMBIDURAI, DUE FOR REPLY ON 08-07-2009.

(a) &(b) Fluctuation in the population of wild fauna and flora is a natural phenomenon. There are no specific reports indicating that the population of endangered wild animals like tiger, lions, elephants and olive ridley turtles are dwindling in the country. On the contrary, the population of lion and elephant has increased over the years. The details of the last all India Estimation of Tiger, carried out between 2006 and 2008 is at Annexure I. Similarly, the details of the last all India enumeration of wild elephants in the country carried out in 2007-08 is at Annexure II. Further, as per the estimation carried out in Gujarat in 2005, the total population of lions in the Gir forests is 359 + 10.However,no such countrywide population estimation has been carried out for Olive Ridley turtles.

(c) &(d) Incidents of death of wild animals have been reported from the State/UT Governments from time to time. Such death of wild animals generally occurs due to old age, diseases, infighting, poaching, electrocution, poisoning, retaliation against man-animal conflict, etc.As per the information received from the State/ UT Governments, the details of the major flagship species of wild animals died during the last three years and the current year is at Annexure III.

(e) The steps taken by the Central Government for the protection of wildlife, inter alia, include the following:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedules 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 and their habitats including rare animals.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
5. The State/UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.
6. 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.
7. 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.

