

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

NATIONAL ELEPHANT CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for setting up of National Elephant Conservation Authority;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the funds provided in this regard;
- (c) whether an elephant census is being undertaken in the Corbett National Park recently;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present position thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to undertake census of all the animals in the country with some action plan in the Eleventh Five Year Plan to protect them for future alongwith the steps taken to increase the population of elephants in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) The Task Force on Project Elephant constituted by the Ministry during 2010 to bring about a more effective conservation and management regime for the elephant in India, has recommended in its report that Project Elephant be converted into a statutory agency on the lines of National Tiger Conservation Authority and the relevant amendments in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 be carried out for such a change to be made. The Government has not taken a final decision on accepting this recommendation, and accordingly no funds have been provided in this regard.

(c) & (d) No, Sir.

(e) Census of wild animals in the country is undertaken by the concerned State/Union Territory Government. Central Government provides financial support under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to the State Governments for undertaking census operations. The nationwide census of elephant population is undertaken at an interval of five years. Previous such census was undertaken during 2007 and next census will be undertaken during 2012.

In order to maintain healthy population of wild animals, including elephants in the country, the Central Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats", "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant" for improved management of wildlife habitats, anti-poaching and intelligence gathering, mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts, and eco-development activities in the human habitations situated in the fringe of protected areas. It has also constituted Wildlife Crime Control Bureau under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to strengthen intelligence gathering, prevention of wildlife crime, investigation and prosecution of wildlife offences, and to ensure coordinated action against the organized wildlife crimes within and across the boundaries of the country.