

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5170  
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011  
SMUGGLING OF WILD LIFE SPECIES  
Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed the cases of smuggling of wild life species through the private airlines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken by the Government to check the smuggling of said species?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The cases of smuggling of wildlife species through private airlines has come to the notice of the Ministry. The details of seizure of wildlife contraband from the godowns/offices of private airlines during the last three years, which came to the notice of this Ministry, are given at Annexure.

(c) The action taken by the Government to check the smuggling of wildlife species by the Airlines includes:

1. The enforcement agencies at airports in the country have been imparted training on search, seizure and identification of wildlife parts/articles. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of the Ministry is also working in developing digitized signature of wildlife products, which will facilitate the baggage/cargo screeners at the airports in detection of wildlife contraband.
2. Investigation of the case pertaining to the seizure of deer antlers at Jet Airways cargo godown at Kolkata airport on 29-04-2009, was conducted by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, and complaint filed in the court against the accused including the officials of the Jet Airways.
3. Technical assistance is being provided to the airport enforcement agencies in identification of wildlife articles/parts.
4. Special Coordination Committee (SCC) consisting of heads of apex intelligence, enforcement agencies including exit point agencies and international border guarding organizations has been constituted to bring synergy amongst different agencies in combating wildlife crime.
5. Inter-agency coordination meetings are held at Regional level regularly to address inter-agency issues regarding coordination of enforcement efforts and sharing of information.
6. Smuggling of wildlife articles through postal parcels has been brought to the notice of the Postal Authorities and they have been requested to establish appropriate checks to prevent it.
7. Airlines are being sensitized about the use of airlines by the smugglers to transport wildlife contraband and advised to take preventive steps.
8. The Chief Commercial Officer, Jet Airways has been requested for stringent implementation of Cargo Security Recommended Practice -1963.
9. Wildlife Offences involving a total value of Rs. 30 lakhs or more have been brought under the purview of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.
10. 'A Manual Species in trade' has been published to be used by other enforcement agencies as reference book in identification of wildlife and wildlife parts/products.