

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1309  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011  
PROTECTION TO ENDANGERED SPECIES  
J Helen Davidson

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for the protection of endangered species in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any monitoring cell has been established in various Forest Departments under the States to monitor their living conditions so as to protect these endangered species in the country; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Important steps taken by the Central Government for protection of endangered species in the country are as follows:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are placed in the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
2. The Wild Life (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.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
5. The State/ Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.
6. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the 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.

(c) &(d) The State Governments undertake periodic census operations in the wildlife protected areas to assess the status of the populations of wild animals, with special focus on endangered species. During the census exercise, the health condition of the sighted animals is also recorded to assess the status of general health and nutrition of the animal populations in the protected area. Field staffs of the wildlife protected areas maintain a vigil against any spread of communicable diseases among wildlife. In order to prevent spread of diseases from the domesticated cattle to wild animals, immunization programmes of livestock in the forest fringe areas is undertaken.