

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1003  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011  
FUNDS FOR PROTECTION OF WILD ANIMALS  
Singh Shri Vijay Bahadur

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

- (a) the number of animals killed during the last three years in the forest areas of the country;
- (b) the reasons therefor alongwith measures taken to protect them;
- (c) whether the Government has provided funds for protection of wild animals during the said period; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, year-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The details of animals killed in forest areas are not compiled at the level of Central Government. However, the reasons generally attributed to the killing of animals include hunting/poaching, poisoning, electrocution, and human-wildlife conflicts etc. The important steps taken by the Government to protect wild animals include:

(b)

i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

ii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence.

iii) Protected Areas under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves have been created all over the country covering the important habitats to provide better protection to wildlife, including threatened species and their habitat.

iv) Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz., 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife.

v) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

vi) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

vii) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

viii) Strict vigil is maintained through effective communication system.

(c) & (d) Financial assistance is extended to the State Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife. The details of funds released to the State/UT Governments under the above Schemes are at Annexure-1, Annexure-2, and Annexure-3.