

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1007
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011
PROTECTION OF FOREST RESOURCES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to protect most valuable and vulnerable forest resources and wild life in the country especially in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The forest resources and wildlife habitats in the country, including in the State of Rajasthan, are primarily managed by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. The Central Government provides financial and technical assistance for better management and protection of forest resources and wildlife habitats under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz., 'Intensification of Forest Management Scheme', 'National Afforestation Programme', 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant'.

The important steps taken by the Central Government for protection of endangered species in the country including Rajasthan 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 Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted a National Tri-State-Chambal Sanctuary Management and Coordination Committee (NTRIS-CASMACC) to give a fillip to protection, conservation and recovery of critically endangered Gharial in its natural habitat in Chambal and Girwa rivers in three States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
3. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
4. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats.
5. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
6. The State/UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.