

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:345
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
DEATH OF WILD ANIMALS
Ajmal Shri Badruddin;Alagiri Shri S.

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

- (a) the total number of Rhinoceros in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of death of wild animals including Rhinoceros killed by poachers in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the total number of poachers who have been detained till date alongwith the nature of punishments given to them; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 345 REGARDING 'DEATH OF WILD ANIMALS' BY SHRIBADRUDDIN AJMAL AND SHRI S. ALAGIRI DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2011.

(a) The census of rhinoceros population is undertaken periodically by the concerned State Governments. As per the information available in the Ministry, the state-wise estimates of rhinoceros population are as follows:

State	Year of census	Estimated population of rhinoceros in the State
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Assam	2009	2201
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West Bengal	2011	184
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Uttar Pradesh	2009	29
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(b) & (c) The management and protection of wild animals in the country is looked after by the concerned State Governments. The State-wise details of killing of wild animals by poachers, and the number of poachers detained for such offences and the punishments awarded to them are not collated in the Ministry.

(d) Following steps have been taken by the Government to prevent poaching of wild animals in the country:

i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals and plants 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 for 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, viz, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves all over the country covering the important habitats have been created as per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to

wildlife, including threatened species and their habitat.

iv. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State Governments under the 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 extensive communication system.