

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3995
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
CHECK ON DEATH OF CROCODILES
Argal Shri Ashok

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

- (a) whether the Chambal sand mine has been operating from Chambal sanctuary in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of species of alligators and crocodiles in Chambal sanctuary region, and the number of alligators died during the last three years and the current year alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Sand mining is not permitted in Chambal Sanctuary situated in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. However, sporadic incidents of illegal sand mining are reported from the Sanctuary area, against which action is taken by the concerned State Government in accordance with the provisions of law. A total of 516 offence cases has been registered by the respective Forest Departments against illegal sand mining from Sanctuary area during the last five years as per details given below:

State No. of cases registered during the Total
period from 2006 to 2010

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

Madhya 53 35 27 87 44 246
Pradesh

Rajasthan 40 46 51 46 32 215

Uttar 01 03 13 22 16 55
Pradesh

Total 94 84 91 155 92 516

(c) The management of Chambal Sanctuary, including the conduct of periodic census of wild animals found therein, is looked after by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for the areas in their respective jurisdiction. As per the information received in the Ministry, following are the population estimates of major aquatic animals (as per sightings) for the year 2010: Gharial : 870, Muggler: 301, River Dolphin: 69. The details of the number of alligators that died during the last three years and the current year are not available in the Ministry as the same are not collated in the Ministry. The animal populations of Chambal Sanctuary face the following threats

1. Illegal fishing

2. Destruction of habitat due to sand mining, shoreline agriculture, and stone quarrying
3. Extraction of water from the river for various purposes
4. Poaching of animals for skin trade
5. Decline in prey base
6. Pollution and decline in the quality of water
7. Population fragmentation and barriers to migration due to construction of dams and barrages.

(d) The Central Government has constituted a National Tri-State Chambal Sanctuary Management and Coordination Committee for effective management and protection of the habitat of Gharial and other animals found in the Sanctuary by involving various stakeholders in the river eco-system. Financial assistance is also provided to the State Governments under the centrally sponsored scheme of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats" to strengthen the protection and management of Chambal Sanctuary.