

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:70

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

DEATHS OF WILD ANIMALS

Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji;Sharma Shri Jagdish

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

- (a) whether a number of wild animals/other animals have died or got killed in the Wildlife Sanctuaries and Zoological Parks of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the causes of death during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the corrective action taken/being taken by the Government and the steps taken to avoid such incidents in future?

Answer

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

(a),(b) and (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) AND (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 70 REGARDING 'DEATHS OF WILD ANIMALS' BY SHRI DATTA MEGHE AND SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.03.2012.

(a) and (b) The management and protection of wild animals in wildlife sanctuaries in the country is looked after by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. State-wise details of death of wild animals in Wildlife Sanctuaries are not collated in the Ministry. However, the State-wise details of deaths of animals in Zoological Parks during last three years is given in the Annexure. The major reasons for death of animals in Wildlife Sanctuaries include natural death, predation, infighting among competing individuals of the same species, accidental death, poaching, etc. In Zoological Parks, the major reasons for the deaths of animals include old age, senility, infighting, respiratory failure, septicemia, etc.

(c) In respect of animals housed in the Zoological Parks in the country, the Central Zoo Authority had laid standards and norms regarding upkeep and healthcare of animals under Recognition of Zoo Rules, 2009, which is mandatory for all the zoos to follow. Appropriate action is also taken by respective zoo operator/ State Government in case of a default on part of the management in proper upkeep of the zoo.

While the management of Wildlife Sanctuaries is looked after by the concerned State/Union Territory Government, the Central Government has taken the following steps to strengthen the protection of wild animals in such sanctuaries:

- i. 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(s).
- ii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
- iii. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wildlife, and improvement of its habitat.
- iv. A Central Zoo Authority has been established to monitor and supervise proper management of zoological parks and upkeep of animals/inmates there. Central Zoo Authority also provides financial assistance for improvement and upkeep of zoological parks.
- 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/Union Territory 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 to strengthen the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

viii. Strict vigil is maintained by the officials of State Departments of Forests and Wildlife.