

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4040
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012
POACHING OF BIRDS
Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that birds are being poached quite frequently in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Reports of killing of wild animals including birds due to hunting have been received in the Ministry from time to time. However, details of such cases are not compiled in the Ministry.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to prevent poaching of wild animals including birds includes:

- i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals and birds against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. According to the conservation and threat status, birds are placed in different schedules of the Act.
- 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, 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 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 Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up with a network of five regional centres and five border units for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
- vi) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- vii) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.
- viii) Strict vigil is maintained through effective communication system.