GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6025
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

(a) whether the Information and Communication Technology is being utilised for achieving the targets of the Department of Forests and fulfilling the expectations of public and also for protection of forest and wildlife and their management in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether necessary resources and training have been provided for utilisation of Information and Communication Technology in Forests and Forestry and environment related information and management;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir. State Forest Departments have been using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Forest and Wildlife management for about last three decades. The Government on India, Ministry of Environment and Forests through its Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Project Elephant, Project Snow Leopard, etc encourages optimal use of such emerging and advanced technologies in forest and wildlife management.

(b) Details are annexed as annexure-I

(c), (d) &(e) Ministry of Environment and Forests take into consideration the new developments in ICT relevant to forestry/wildlife and environment sectors and try to support/disseminate them among field officers and scientific/technical personnel engaged in such fields through various training programmes.

ANNEXURE-I

Following steps are taken to use Information and Communication Technology for protection of Forests and Wildlife of the country:

1. Use of "Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System" (RS and GIS) Technology to know the status of forest cover.

2. The use of "computer" upto the level of Range Forest Officers in majority of State Forest Departments.

3. "Video Conferencing Facility" for faster and effective communication.

4. Use of "Wireless communication" for protection of Protected Areas and endangered wildlife species.

5. Use of 'Telemetry' studies on Wildlife to assess habitat use, movement, dispersal of select endangered mammals, birds and reptiles.

6. Use of "E-eye" for round-the-clock observation of the Protected Areas.

7. Use of "Camera Trap" technology to record presence and distribution of nocturnal wildlife species

8. Computerized/internet booking for wildlife tourists visiting National Parks/Sanctuaries.