

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7229

ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012

WILDLIFE PROTECTION ACT, 1972

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Alagiri Shri S. ; Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao; Ramasubbu Shri S.; Verma Shri Sajjan Singh; Yadav Shri Dharmendra; Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) the total population of tigers/lions/leopards/elephants in the country as on date, State and Sanctuary-wise;
- (b) whether there has been an increase in number of cases of killing of endangered species and cruelty against animals in the country;
- (c) if so, the details of such cases during the last three years;
- (d) the number of persons convicted during the said period, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to check poaching and conservation of rare species of animals in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) The population of tigers, lions and elephants in the country is estimated based upon census operations undertaken by the State Governments on periodic basis. The population estimates for tigers and elephants have been made State-wise and Sanctuary-wise projections have not been made. The estimated population of Elephants, Tigers and Lions in at Annexure-I, II and III respectively. Nationwide estimation of leopard population has not been undertaken.
- (b) and (c) The details of the number of cases of killing of endangered species and cruelty against animals in the country are not compiled in the Ministry. However, the Ministry has not received any report establishing that there has been an increase in the number of such cases during past three years.
- (d) The prosecution of persons involved in wildlife offences is ordinarily undertaken by the concerned State Government. Accordingly, the number of persons convicted for wildlife related offences is not compiled in the Ministry.
- (e) and (f) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 with the objective of further strengthening the penal provisions for wildlife offences and to incorporate the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.