

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:581  
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012  
FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SANCTUARIES  
Dhurve Jyoti;Vishwanath Shri Adagur H

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

- (a) whether the Government has received proposals from various State Governments for development of parks/sanctuaries to international standards including Game Parks in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the financial assistance sought for Ranganathittu Wildlife Sanctuary during the last three years and the current financial year, State-wise;
- (c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared;
- (d) whether several new animals would be brought in this Park;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the specific funds provided to Ranganathittu Wildlife Sanctuary during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Government to protect the flora and fauna of the country including said Sanctuary?

**Answer**

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

(a) The Ministry has received proposals from various State Governments seeking financial assistance for management of protected areas and protection of wildlife and its habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats" and "Project Tiger".

(b) &(c) The details of financial assistance sought by various State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats" and "Project Tiger" for management of protected areas and protection of wildlife and its habitats, including in respect of Ranganathittu Wildlife Sanctuary, during the last three years and the current financial year is given in the Annexure. Financial assistance has already been released as per the availability of funds during the current financial year in respect of most of the State Governments, however, no timeline can be specified in respect of the remaining proposals.

(d)&(e) There is no proposal to bring any new animals to the park.

(f) The details of financial assistance released to the State Government of Karnataka under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for Ranganathittu Wildlife Sanctuary during the last three years and the current financial year are as given below:

Year	Financial assistance released to the State Government of Karnataka for Ranganathittu Wildlife Sanctuary (Rs. in lakhs)
2009-10	39.065
2010-11	12.05
2011-12	8.75
2012-13	4.89

(g) The steps taken by the Government to protect the wild flora and fauna of the country, including in the Ranganathittu Wildlife Sanctuary, include:

i) Legal protection has been provided to many species of wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. According to the conservation and threat status, wild animals are placed in different schedules of the Act. Leopard is included in Schedule I of the Act, which affords it the highest degree of protection under 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 have been created as per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 covering important habitats all over the country 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 offices, three sub-regional offices 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.