

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1485

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012

CHECK ON DEATHS OF WILD ANIMALS

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

- (a) whether the Government has maintained any data regarding the numbers of Lions, Tigers, Elephants and Rhinos in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any records of unnatural deaths/killings of wild animals in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year sanctuary-wise and animal-wise and the steps taken by the Government for the protection of wild animals in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) As per the information available in the Ministry, the population of Lions, Tigers, Elephants and Rhinos estimated in the last census operation undertaken in respect of such species is as follows:

Species	Population estimate	The last Census
	as per the last operation undertaken	
	census	during the year

Tiger	1706	2010
Lion	411	2010
Rhinoceros	2414	2009
Elephant	27694	2007-08

(c) & (d) The State-wise details of mortality of tiger, elephant, lion and rhino during the last three years and the current year, as per the information available in the Ministry, are at Annexures-I(a), I(b), I(c) & I(d) respectively. Sanctuary-wise details of the same are not collated in the Ministry. The steps taken by the Government for protection of wild animals in the country include:

- i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ii. 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).
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- 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.