

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2628

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012

CHECK ON POACHING OF RHINOS

Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Deka Shri Ramen;Panda Shri Baijayant;Semmalai Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the increasing instances of poaching of one-horned Rhinoceros and wild elephants in Assam and Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of instances of poaching of Rhinoceros and elephants during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the seized carcasses of the poached animals are disposed off by the forest officials or used for other purposes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps initiated by the Government to prevent poaching in the country including Assam and Odisha?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Incidents of poaching of one-horned rhinoceros and wild elephants in Assam and Odisha come to the notice of the Ministry from time to time. As per the information received from the Chief Wildlife Wardens in the State Governments of Assam and Odisha, the details of poaching of one-horned rhinoceros and wild elephants in Assam and Odisha during the last three years and the current year are as follows:

Name of the State	Year	No. of rhinoceros poached	No. of elephant poached
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Assam	2009	14	4 (2009-10)
	2010	8	2 (2010-11)
	2011	7	0 (2011-12)
	2012 (as on 22.11.2012)	13	#

Odisha	2009-10	-	5
	2010-11	-	18
	2011-12	-	8
	2012 (as on 20.11.2012)	-	5

Details of elephant deaths due to poaching have not yet been collated for 2012.

(c)&(d) The carcasses of the poached animals are disposed off by the forest officials by burial or incineration of the dead body. Details are not collated in the Ministry.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to prevent poaching of wild animals in the country including Assam and Odisha 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.