

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2219
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013
INCIDENTS OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE
Singh Shri Dhananjay

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

- (a) whether incidents of illegal wildlife trade were reported in the country recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of international trade in endangered species of fauna and flora during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Incidents of illegal wildlife trade in the country have been received in the Ministry from time to time. The data on the exact magnitude of such illegal trade within the country is not collated in the Ministry. However, incidents of illegal trade in endangered species of fauna and flora detected at Exit Points by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) during the last three years are given in the Annexure I.

(c)&(d) Details of the international trade in endangered species of fauna and flora during last three years and the current year, as recorded in WCCB, is given in the Annexure-II.

(e) The steps taken by the Central Government to control illegal trade include:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.
2. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
3. Training courses are conducted for various enforcement agencies like Customs, Central Police Forces etc. for better appreciation of the issues related to the illegal wildlife trade.
4. Wildlife offences involving a total value of Rs. 30.00 lakhs or more have been brought under the purview of the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002.
5. Financial support is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes –Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State/UT Governments for various activities aimed at wildlife conservation including control of poaching.
6. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
7. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.