

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2244
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013
CHECK ON DEATHS OF RHINOS
Rathod Shri Ramesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that a number of Rhinos were killed by Poachers across the country particularly in Kaziranga Park;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to save and protect Rhinos from Poachers in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Poaching of rhinos in the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve is a cause for concern. The details of rhinoceros poaching during the last three years and current year, as reported by States, are at Annexure-I.
- (c) Central assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats is provided to States, inter alia, for development, protection and antipoaching activities. The steps taken by the State Government to protect and preserve the rhinoceros in Assam are at Annexure-II. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection and conservation of wildlife including rhinoceros are at Annexure-III.