

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2261

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013

CHECK ON DEATHS OF WILD ANIMALS

Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Singh Shri Radha Mohan;Virendra Kumar Shri

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

(a) whether the incidents of killing/poaching and deaths of wild animals including tigers/ wild cats, elephants in the country including in Nagarahole National Park in Karnataka have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of poachers identified by the Government so far; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to check such poaching and killing of wild animals?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Incidents of killing and deaths of wild animals including tigers, wild cats, elephants in the country have come to the notice of this Ministry. Details of tiger, elephant, rhino and lion mortality, as reported by State Governments during the current year is given in the Annexure..

(c) The detection of offences under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, apprehension and prosecution of offenders involved in such offences in the States/Union Territories is done by the concerned State/Union Territory Government. The details of such cases are not collated in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to check poaching and killing of wild animals in the country are as follows:

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.