

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3354
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal to the Government for financial assistance for the projects relating to protection and conservation of the wildlife in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the protection and conservation of wildlife?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The State Government of Karnataka has submitted proposals in the form of Annual Plans of Operation (APO) for financial assistance under the various Centrally sponsored Schemes viz., 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for protection and conservation of wildlife and its habitats during the current financial year, 2013-14. The Ministry, as on today, has released an amount of Rs.1582.0919 lakhs to the State Government of Karnataka under these Schemes.

(c) The steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of wildlife 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.