

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3372  
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013  
CHECK ON EXTINCTION OF REPTILES  
Kumar Shri Shailendra

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

- (a) whether a number of species of reptiles including Crocodile and King Cobra are on the verge of extinction in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the said species?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) As per the Red Data Book of International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), five species of reptiles viz., Batagur baska (Four-toed Terrapin), Batagur kachuga (Red-crowned Roofed Turtle), Dermochelys coriacea (Leatherback), Eretmochelys imbricata (Hawksbill Turtle) and Gavialis gangeticus (Fish-eating Crocodile) are listed as critically endangered species. However, the Indian crocodile and the king cobra are presently not on the verge of extinction.

(c) The endangered species of reptiles viz., Batagur baska, Dermochelys coriacea, Eretmochelys imbricata, Gavialis gangeticus and crocodiles (including the Estuarine or salt water crocodile) (Crocodylus porosus and Crocodylus palustris) are listed in Schedule I Part II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them the highest degree of protection. Besides, a network of Protected Areas (National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves) has been created for providing protection to the habitats of threatened species of reptiles including crocodile and king cobra. Hunting and trade of these species are strictly prohibited under the provisions of the Act.