

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4459
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
CHECK ON DEATHS OF WILD ANIMALS
Das Shri Bhakta Charan;Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any statistics of Lions, Tigers, Elephants, Rhinos in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any records of unnatural deaths of wild animals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) As per the information available in the Ministry, the population of the lions, tigers, elephants and rhinos estimated in the last census operation undertaken in respect of such species are as follows:

Species Population estimate as The last census operation
per the last census undertaken during the year

Lion 411 2010

Tiger 1706 2010

Elephant 27694 2007-08

Rhinoceros 2414 2009

(c),(d)&(e) The details of mortality of lion, tiger, elephant and rhino during the last three years and the current year, as per the information available in the Ministry, is given in the Annexure. The Government has taken following steps for protection of wild animals in the country:

- 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. In addition to provision of stringent punishment for the offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 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 ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with 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.