

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6217
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013
CHECK ON POPULATION OF NEELGAI
Roy Shri Nripendra Nath; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the population of 'Neelgai' is very high in Gangetic region and its nearby areas due to which farmers are not able to do their farming as reported by some State Governments;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to check the population of 'Neelgai';
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has been receiving reports from State Governments including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, etc. regarding crop depredation by Neelgai. However, the Ministry does not collate the population figures of Neelgai in the country.
- (c) to (e) The important steps taken by the Government for management of Neelgai are as given below:
 - (i) Neelgai is included in Schedule-II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and Section 11 of the Act empowers the Chief Wildlife Warden to grant permission to any person to hunt such wild animals that have become dangerous to human life or to property including standing crops.
 - (ii) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had got the issue studied by the Wildlife Institute of India for assessment of the nature of problem and possible ways to deal with it. The results have been provided to the State Governments.
 - (iii) The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/Union Territory Governments under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for construction/erection of fences to stop wild animals entering agricultural crops.
 - (iv) An advisory has been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment and Forests jointly to the Agriculture Departments of all concerned State Governments for management of Blue Bulls (Neelgai), which suggests a multi pronged approach including mapping of problematic areas and planning scientific management with methods like chemical capture of blue bulls, fertility control, bio-fencing etc.