

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1139
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013
CHECK ON POACHING ACTIVITIES
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) whether the Government has considered the demand of wildlife activists for shifting of Gondia Wildlife Division Office to Sakoli to ensure better monitoring of wildlife and forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether poaching in the wildlife sanctuaries is rampant particularly around Nagzira, Navegaon National Parks;
- (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)&(b) No proposal has been received in the Ministry for shifting of Gondia Wildlife Division office to Sakoli.

(c)&(d) The management and protection of wild animals in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries including Nagzira, Navegaon National Parks is looked after by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. The Ministry has not received any information of rampant poaching in wildlife sanctuaries particularly around Nagzira and Navegaon National Parks.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) & (d) above. However, the Government has taken several steps for protection of wild animals. Some of these are:

- 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 punishment for offences under the Act 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.