

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2858
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014
PROTECTION TO ANIMALS IN HILLY AREAS
Bais Shri Ramesh;Mala Rajya Laxmi Smt. Shah

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken a note of presence of 'Snow Leopard' in Nandadevi biosphere, Gangotri National Park and Flowers Valley in hilly areas of Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the 'Snow Leopard', 'Kastura', 'Ghural', and 'Bharal' in higher Himalayan areas of Uttarakhand;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to develop intelligence network to check poachers and smugglers in higher reaches of Himalayan regions of Uttarakhand; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (Dr. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

- (a) and (b) As per the information received from the State Government of Uttarakhand, presence of snow leopard has been noticed in Nanda Devi National Park, Gangotri National Park and Valley of Flower National Parks.
- (c) Snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Bharal (*Ovis nahura*) and Musk Deer (*Moschus moschiferus*) have been included in the Schedule I and Ghoral (*Naemorhedus goral*) in Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and are legally protected under the provisions of the Act. Further, the Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to the State Governments for protection and conservation of wildlife including Snow Leopard, Musk Deer, Ghoral and Bharal and their habitats under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' .
- (d) and (e) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides punishment for the illegal hunting and trade of the wildlife. The Act also empowers specified officers to prevent commission of offences. Protection of wildlife and prevention of wildlife offences are the mandate of the State Forest Departments. The government has also set up the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for, inter alia, collecting in collecting intelligence related to organised wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to State and other enforcement agencies.