

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4211
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
NEELGAI POPULATION
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether the population of 'Neelgai' is very high in Gangetic region and its nearby areas in Bihar due to which farmers are not able to do their farming;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to check the population of 'Neelgai'; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to(d) Various State Governments including those in Gangetic region have represented about the increased number of Neelgai, as these are causing severe damage to agriculture crops. Neelgai has been placed in Schedule-III of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Chief Wildlife Warden of the State is empowered to permit hunting of these animals under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Further, the Ministry of Environment & Forests has also directed the Wildlife Institute of India to carry out a study in the important affected areas to recommend mitigatory measures.