

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1374  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015  
POPULATION OF WILD ANIMALS  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total number of wild animals in the country, State and animal-wise;
- (b) the number of wild animals killed/died during each of the last three years, animal-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the wild animals in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) The census of all wild animals is not under- taken in the country. However census of tiger is undertaken at the national level once every four years and census of a few other major flagship species is undertaken at the State-level by the respective State/Union Territory governments. As per the latest census, the estimated popula- tion of tiger, elephant, lion and rhinoceros as received from the States is given below:

Name of the Species	Estimated population	(Census year)
Tiger	1945-2491	(2014)
Elephant	29391-30711	(2012)
Lion	411	(2010)
Rhinoceros	2810	(2013)

(b) The management and protection of wild animals in the State/ Union Territory is carried out by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. Animal-wise details of death of wild animals are not collated in the Ministry. However, the Ministry has received reports of deaths of tigers and elephants in the past. As per the reports received, the details of deaths of these animals are given in Annexure.

(c) Important steps taken by the Government to protect the wild animals in the country are as follows:

i. 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.

ii. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

iii. 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).

iv. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 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.