

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:285

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015

POACHING OF WILD ANIMALS

Pal Shri Jagdambika;Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy

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

(a) whether a number of incidents of poaching of wild animals from various wild life sanctuaries and national parks including Kaziranga National Park and Cauvery Wild Life Sanctuary have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of cases of poaching reported during each of the last three years and the current year, animal species, sanctuary and national park-wise;

(c) whether the existing provisions of law are inadequate to curb poaching of wild animals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken for strict enforcement of law by the States?

Answer

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

(a)to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 285 REGARDING 'POACHING OF WILD ANIMALS' BY SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN AND SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL DUE FOR REPLY ON 17.03.2015

(a)and (b) The management and protection of wild animals in and around the National Parks and Sanctuaries in the country is carried out by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments. The Ministry has received reports of death of Tigers, Elephants and Rhinos in the past. The details of death of these animals in the country as per the report received in the Ministry during last three years and the current year is given below:

Name of the species	Year	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Elephant	80	91	63	2	
Rhinoceros	88	142	91	33 (up to December 2014)	
Tiger	89 (2012)	68 (2013)	78 (2014)	17 (2015)	

As per the information provided by the Karnataka Forest Department the details of poaching cases reported during the last three years in Cauvery wildlife Sanctuary are as below:

Name of the species	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Deer	2	2	4
Fish	4	5	8
Sambar	1	2	5
Wild boar		4	
Barking deer			1
Lizard		3	
Rabbit		1	

(c) and (d) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for stringent punishments for hunting and illegal trade in wildlife and its parts and products. The penalties for few offences under the Act were last enhanced vide Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006.

The important steps taken for enforcement of law are as given below:

1. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up which assists the State/Union Territory Governments in collecting and collating intelligence related organized wildlife crime activities. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau also assists the State /Union Territory Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crime.

2. Special Tiger Protection Force has been made operational in States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Odisha with 100% Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.
3. The state governments have deployed front-line staff, many of whom are equipped with commutation facilities and weapons.
4. Appropriate legal action is taken by the authorities in the state governments in cases of wildlife offences.
5. Few States have established the mechanisms for coordination with other States in the matters of wild life offences.
6. Several State governments have taken steps to improve mobility of the forest front-line staff to assist them in better enforcement.