

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3257

ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015

CROCODILE KING COBRA

Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Indian crocodile and the king cobra are facing extinction;
- (b) the population of these species during the last three years; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure their protection and preservation?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) The Ministry has not received any report indicating that the Indian crocodile and king cobra are facing extinction.

The census of all wild animals is not undertaken in the country and hence population of Indian crocodile and the king cobra are not available with the Ministry.

(c) The steps taken by the Government for protection of wild animals including Indian crocodiles and king cobra in the country include:

i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Indian crocodile is in Schedule I and king cobra is included in Part II Schedule II of the Act.

ii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment for offences under the Act has 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 including Indian crocodile and king cobra .

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.