

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4988  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014  
ILLEGAL TRADE OF MARINE SPECIES  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether illegal trade of marine species especially sea horses and sea cucumbers has been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and to protect these species?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) The cases of illegal trade of sea cucumber and sea horses have been reported to this Ministry from time to time by different States / Union Territories. The details of such offences are as below:

State	No. of cases, year-wise			
	2011	2012	2013	2014
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	0	4	0
Karnataka	1	1	0	0
Tamil Nadu	10	13	11	4
Maharashtra	0	2	0	1
Uttar Pradesh	1	0	0	0
West Bengal	0	0	1	0
Total:	13	16	16	5

(c) The Ministry is taking following steps to prevent poaching and illegal trade of wild animals including sea cucumbers and sea horses:

- (i) Coordination of inter-agency enforcement efforts in combating organised wildlife crimes through Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).
- (ii) Joint operations are carried out with navy, coastguard and local enforcement officials to apprehend criminals indulging in poaching and illegal trade of sea cucumber and sea horse.
- (iii) Sharing at international Forums the Trans-border linkages detected within the country to sensitize the foreign authorities concerned.
- (iv) Issuance of Alerts and Advisories to enforcement agencies on latest modus operandi, trade routes, concealment techniques etc.
- (v) Collection of intelligence through Wildlife Crime Control Bureau on organized criminal networks and dissemination of the same to the enforcement agencies for further necessary action.
- (vi) Conduct of capacity building programmes for wildlife enforcement officers in detection and investigation of wildlife offences involving sea cucumber and sea horse.
- (vii) Running awareness campaigns and sensitization programmes on wildlife and wildlife crime to various stakeholders.
- (viii) The Ministry through the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has brought out the following publications for the capacity building of the field officers:
  - a) Handbook for wildlife crime investigation officers on wildlife crime investigation.
  - b) X-Ray Manual of wildlife products in illegal trade.

c) Identification Manual on Wildlife Species in trade.