

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4991

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014

KILLING OF ANIMALS

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

- (a) the cases registered under the Wildlife Act for poaching of animals during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to amend the Wildlife Act to incorporate stringent punishment since the existing punishment for poaching is inadequate;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the role of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in preventing the poaching of animals; and
- (d) the other effective measures taken by the Government to check poaching/ killing of animals?

Answer

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

(a) The management and protection of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks including prevention and detection of offences and prosecution of offenders is the responsibility of the concerned State/ Union Territory Government. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers the Chief Wildlife Wardens and other authorised officers in the States/Union Territories for this purpose. The information about cases registered against wildlife offences by the State /Union Territory Governments is not compiled in the Ministry.

(b) and (c) The government has proposed amendment to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and has introduced The Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Bill 2013 in the Rajya Sabha in the year 2013. The Bill, inter alia, proposes to enhance the penalties in respect of certain offences, including those related to hunting. Some of the provisions related to enhancement of punishments for hunting, in brief, are as below:

1. It proposes to prohibit manufacture, sell, purchase, keeping, transport or use any animal trap except with prior permission in writing of the Chief Wild Life Warden given for educational and scientific purposes.
2. It proposes to enhance penalty for offences related to animals specified in Schedule I or Part II of Scheduled II and specified parts and products thereof.
3. It proposes to enhance the penalty for offences related to hunting in a Sanctuary or National Park or altering boundaries thereof.
4. It proposes to enhance the penalties for offences in relation to the core area of a Tiger reserve or hunting in a Tiger reserve or altering the boundary of the Tiger reserve.

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau assists law enforcing agencies in the States/Union Territories in preventing the poaching of animals by:

1. capacity building for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assisting State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes.
2. collecting and collating the intelligence related to organised wildlife crime activities and disseminating the same to the enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend criminals and to establish a centralised wildlife crime data bank,
3. coordinating the actions of various officers, State Governments and other authorities in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, either directly or through regional and border units set up by the Bureau,
4. assisting the concerned authorities in foreign countries and concerned international organisations to facilitate coordination and universal action on wildlife crime control,

(d) Some of the other effective measures taken by the government to check poaching/killing of animals are as below:

1. 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.

2. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/Union Territory Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.

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

4. The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

5. Hunting of wild animals is prohibited and trade thereof is regulated under strict supervision.

6. Strict vigil is maintained by officials of State Departments of Forests and Wildlife