

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1961

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014

DEATHS OF WILD ANIMALS

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Puttaraju Shri C.S.

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

- (a) whether cases of deaths of wild animals including tiger, leopards and elephants in protected areas and sanctuaries have been on the rise during the last three years and the current year:
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and sanctuary-wise including Sundarban in West Bengal;
- (c) the reasons identified for their untimely and unnatural deaths, sanctuary-wise; and;
- (d) the action taken by Government to ensure their safety?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The year-wise and State-wise details related to the death of wild animals, including tiger, leopard and elephants in National Parks and Sanctuaries are not compiled in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. However, the protection of Tiger Reserves is directly coordinated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the details of Tiger Reserve-wise tiger deaths during the last three years and the current year, as reported by the NTCA are at Annexure. The reasons for the death of wild animals include in-fighting between animals, old age, accidents, retaliatory actions arising out of human wildlife conflict, like poisoning, electrocution, and illegal hunting.

(d) Important steps taken by the Government to ensure safety of wildlife are as follows:

- i. Hunting and commercial exploitation of wild animals included in various schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is prohibited. Offences committed in respect of these species attract punishment prescribed under the Act.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and 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.
- 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 State/Union Territory Government have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.