

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2698

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014

SMUGGLING OF ANIMALS

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

- (a) whether numerous lesser known animals such as Pangolins, Tortoise and Lizard are being killed or smuggled by poachers putting them in danger of being wiped out;
- (b) whether the Government has made any attempt to collect data on smaller animals which are under serious threat;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List has also given a list of species in India which are vulnerable and endangered and at risk of becoming extinct;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the lesser known species which are in danger of extinction?

Answer

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

(a) The information about the killing and smuggling of lesser known animals like pangolins, tortoise and lizard have been received in the Ministry from time to time.

(b) and (c) The protection and conservation of wildlife is the responsibility of the concerned State/Union Territory governments. The details related to killing and smuggling of wild animals is not collected in the Ministry.

(d) and (e) As per the Red Data Book of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), there are 75 species of birds and animals found in India classified as Critically Endangered, 202 species as Endangered and another 379 as Vulnerable.

(f) The important steps taken by the Government to protect the wildlife including lesser known species which are in danger of extinction are as below:?

i. A total of 670 Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves have been created under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide higher protection to wild fauna and flora covering important wildlife habitats.

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

iii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides stringent punishment for offences under the Act. The Act also provides for forfeiture of equipment, vehicle or weapon used in committing wildlife offence(s).

iv. Financial 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 improvement of forest and wildlife areas like the national parks and sanctuaries to provide improved habitats to animals and also for undertaking protection measures.

v. One component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' focuses on the recovery of populations of 17 identified endangered species in the country.