

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2703
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014
POACHING OF BLACKBUCKS
Rao Shri Rayapati Sambasiva;Singh Shri Dushyant

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

- (a) whether there have been a number of incidents of deaths and poaching of blackbucks and other wild animals in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof separately during each of the last three years and the current year animal-wise and State/ sanctuary-wise;
- (c) the action taken against the responsible persons/poachers during the said period;
- (d) the funds released for the conservation of blackbucks in various sanctuaries during the said period, State/ sanctuary-wise; and
- (e) the comprehensive measures taken for the protection of such animals including stringent penalties for poaching?

Answer

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

- (a) The incidents of the death and poaching of black bucks and other wild animals have been reported to the Ministry from time to time.
- (b) 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.
- (c) The law enforcing agencies in the States/Union Territories take legal actions against the offenders under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which has enabling provisions in this regard.
- (d) The details of funds released for the protection and conservation of wildlife including blackbucks is at Annexure.
- (e) Some of the comprehensive measures taken for the protection of wild animals 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 section 51 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for imprisonment of 3 to 7 years and also fine for offence committed in relation to any animal specified in schedule I or part II of schedule II of the act. The offences in respect of other animals are punishable with imprisonment up to 3 years or with fine or both.

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.