

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3890  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014  
PROTECTION OF BEAR  
Mohan Shri P. C.

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

- (a) whether the population of bear in the country has been dwindling;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the present population of various species of bear in the country, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the bear population along with the financial assistance provided for the purpose, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to launch a specific scheme for conservation of bear on the lines of project Tiger and project Elephant and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to prevent illegal trade in bear and bear products?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) No census of bear population has been conducted in the country. Therefore data of their population is not available. Even otherwise, there are no reports indicating decline in population of various species of bear in the country.

(c) to (e) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been enacted to provide protection to wildlife including bears. The Act prohibits killing, poisoning, capturing, coursing, snaring, trapping, injuring or destroying or taking any part of the body parts of wild animals and also regulates trade or commerce in wildlife. The Himalayan Brown Bear and Sloth Bear, Himalayan black bear as well as Malayan sun bear have been listed under Schedule I of the Act granting them the highest protection.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has also taken steps to get the dancing bears rescued/seized with the help of State Governments/Union Territories and NGOs and to rehabilitate them at the lifetime care facilities established at Keetham, Agra and in the off exhibit areas of various zoos.

The Central Government provides assistance to the States/Union Territories under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes like 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Elephant' and 'Project Tiger' for conservation and protection of wildlife and their habitats. The details of assistance provided are given at Annexure.

The government has no proposal to launch any specific scheme for conservation of bears on the lines of Project Tiger or Project Elephant.