

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4922
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
SAFETY OF FOREST RANGERS
Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

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

- (a) whether India loses more forest rangers to poachers and attacks by wild animals each year than any other country;
- (b) if so, the comparative position in this regard during each of the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to provide safety to forest rangers against poachers and wild animals?

Answer

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

(a),(b)&(c) No reports of high number of Forest Rangers losing lives to poachers and attack by wild animals have been received in this Ministry. However, in order to strengthen the forest protection mechanism in the country, the Ministry provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger', 'Project Elephant' and 'Intensification of Forest Management Scheme'. Funds under the schemes are utilized, inter alia, for provision of fire arms, establishment of camps and strengthening forest infrastructure etc.

Funds are also provided to the State/UT Governments under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) against the Annual Plan of Operations for activities relating to protection and management of forests and wildlife inter alia including providing residential accommodation, machinery and equipments to the field staff, training of forest officials of various levels with an emphasis on training of staff at cutting edge level (forest range level).