GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 160
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.06.2019

Poaching and Trafficking of Wildlife

160.   SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ:

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

(a)   whether as per records of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, a number of tigers have been killed by poachers in protected areas from the year 2012 to 2018 and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b)   whether trafficking of rare wildlife is the main reason for poaching and if so, the details thereof;

(c)   the total number of people arrested and convicted for poaching and trafficking of wildlife from the year 2012 to till date;

(d)   the details of steps taken/being taken by the Government to check poaching; and

(e)   the reasons for not being successful in implementing anti-poaching measures effectively?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)   Confirmed cases of poaching and seizures from the year 2012 to 2018 are at **Annexure-I.**

(b)   Along with smuggling, poaching is also attributed to secondary killing of rare and endangered species of wildlife.

(c)   As per the available records of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau based on the information received from the State Forest and Police Authorities, 9253 people have been arrested in wildlife poaching cases since 2012 to 2018 in India.

(d)   The steps taken/being taken by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to check poaching is at **Annexure-II.**

(e)   Due to initiatives taken by the Government of India, anti-poaching measures have been successfully implemented to control poaching.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 160 ON POACHING AND TRAFFICKING OF WILDLIFE DUE FOR REPLY ON 21.06.2019

Confirmed cases of poaching and seizures from the year 2012 to 2018

A. **Poaching cases from 2012 to 2018**

State	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assam	3	7	2	0	4	2	0	18
Bihar	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Karnataka	1	7	0	4	4	5	3	24
Kerala	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
Madhya Pradesh	4	2	2	2	8	9	4	31
Maharashtra	4	4	0	1	1	7	3	20
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Odisha	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Tamil Nadu	2	0	5	1	0	2	0	10
Telangana	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Uttar Pradesh	4	0	1	2	0	1	2	10
Uttarakhand	2	6	2	2	0	1	0	13
West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	**23**	**29**	**13**	**12**	**21**	**27**	**16**	**141**

B. **Seizure cases from 2012 to 2018**

State	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	**2**
Assam	0	0	0	2	2	5	1	**10**
Bihar	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	**2**
Chattisgarh	1	0	2	1	2	2	1	**9**
Haryana	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Delhi	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	**2**
Karnataka	4	1	0	0	1	1	2	**9**
Kerala	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	**3**
Madhya Pradesh	3	0	1	4	1	1	2	**12**
Maharashtra	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	**5**
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
Odisha	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	**2**
Rajasthan	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Tamil Nadu	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	**4**
Telangana	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	**2**
Uttar Pradesh	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	**6**
Uttarakhand	1	2	0	1	6	1	0	**11**
West Bengal	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	**2**
Total	**16**	**4**	**12**	**11**	**22**	**11**	**8**	**84**

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Steps taken/being taken by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority to check poaching

1. Generic measures

- Providing assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Project Tiger" for protection, infrastructure and antipoaching operations (including deployment of Tiger Protection Force and Special Tiger Protection Force)
- Providing grant through NTCA for patrolling in tiger rich sensitive forest areas outside tiger reserves
- Alerting the States as and when required
- Disseminating of real time information of backward / forward linkages relating to poachers / wildlife criminals.
- Advising the States for combing forest floor to check snares / traps
- Performing supervisory field visits through the National Tiger Conservation Authority and its regional offices
- Using information technology for improved surveillance (e-Eye system) using thermal cameras
- Launching tiger reserve level monitoring using camera trap to keep a photo ID database of individual tigers
- Preparing a national database of individual tiger photo captures to establish linkage with body parts seized or dead tigers
- Assisting States to deploy local workforce in a big way for protection to complement the efforts of field staff [In all, approximately 25 lakh mandays are generated annually with 50% central assistance amounting to around Rs. 25 crores (excluding matching 50% share given by States) under Project Tiger. Many local tribes constitute such local workforce (besides non-tribals), eg. Baigas, Gonds in Madhya Pradesh, Gonds in Maharashtra, Chenchus in Andhra Pradesh, Sholigas in Karnataka, Gujjars in Uttarakhand and Irulas in Tamil Nadu to name a few].
- Initiative taken for collaboration of National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau towards an online tiger / wildlife crime tracking / reporting system in tiger reserves and to coordinate with INTERPOL for checking trans-border trade of wildlife products.
- Insurance / Corpus Fund for staff of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
- Motivating tiger reserve administration / tiger States to ensure conviction of criminals through pursuance of cases in different courts.
- Bilateral co-operation with neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Russia.
- Sharing of information on seizure of body parts including skin of tigers among tiger range countries to ascertain source area. India has already made a proposal in this regard in CITES CoP-17 in Johannesburg which was agreed by member countries.

2.   **Security Plan**

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has prepared generic guidelines for formulating a Security Plan for each tiger reserve which is operationalized in the overarching Tiger Conservation Plan which is legally mandated under section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

3.   **Security Audit**

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has developed a framework for carrying out the assessment of the security threats and for formulating site specific security plan which is now being carried out in 25 different tiger reserves in Phase-I.

4.   **M-STrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers Intensive-Protection & Ecological Status)**

This is an android application which has three distinct modules namely Patrol module, Ecological module and Conflict module. The Patrol module *inter-alia* is a mechanism to ensure accountability of front line staff vis-à-vis antipoaching efforts and useful for the tiger reserve management to strengthen protection measures, based on data that is generated through M-STrIPES.

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