

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2612
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020.

Red Sand Boa Snakes

2612. SHRI N. REDDEPPA:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that rare non-poisonous red sand boa snakes are used for making certain medicines, cosmetics and in black magic and are in huge demand in the international market, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the cases of indiscriminate killing and illegal sale of such snakes have come to notice of the Government;
- (c) if so, the steps taken/being taken to book such persons under the Wildlife (Protection) Act in the last three years and the current year; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken to protect such species in future?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) There are no reports in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change regarding use of Red Sand Boa snake for making certain medicines, cosmetics and in black magic.
- (b) and (c) The management and protection of wildlife is undertaken by the respective States/Union Territories. The details of illegal trade of Sand Boa snake cases as reported to the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) by the State Forest and Police authorities, during the last three years is as given below:

S.No	Year	No. of cases	No. of accused
1	2017	11	25
2	2018	18	43
3	2019	10	25
	Total	39	93

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau had carried out joint operations with State enforcement agencies to apprehend criminals involved in smuggling for all protected species including Red Sand Boa snake.

(d) The important steps taken for protection of Red Sand Boa snake is follows:

- (i) All snakes of Family: Boidae, which includes Red Sand boa snake, have been listed in Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby, according them protection against hunting and illegal trade.
- (ii) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been conducting capacity building programmes for Forest and Police officials in investigation of wildlife cases under provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (iii) Alerts and advisories on poaching and illegal trade of wildlife including smuggling of live snakes have been issued to State and Central agencies.
- (iv) The State/Union Territories authorities are also taking appropriate action for controlling poaching and illegal trade of live snakes including Red Sand Boa snake.
