

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 141
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Animals

141. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

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

- (a) the total number of cases involving illegal trafficking of endangered animals during the last three years;
- (b) the number of endangered animals killed during the last three years;
- (c) the number of people with cases registered against them for the killing or trafficking of endangered animals during the last three years; and;
- (d) the steps the Ministry is taking to prevent the illegal trafficking of endangered animals;

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) , (b) and (c) As per the data available with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau provided by the State Forest and Police authorities, the details of wildlife cases registered and number of accused arrested during the last three years is as below:

| S.No | Year | No. of cases | No. of accused arrested |
|------|------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2018 | 648 | 1099 |
| 2 | 2019 | 805 | 1506 |
| 3 | 2020 | 601 | 1231 |

As per information available in the Ministry, the details of tiger mortalities due to poaching, as reported by States is as given below:

| S.No | Year | Poaching |
|------|------|----------|
| 1 | 2018 | 34 |
| 2 | 2019 | 17 |
| 3 | 2020 | 7 |

The details of elephant deaths due to various reasons, as reported by State/UT's is as given below:

| S.No | Year | Train accidents | Electrocution | Poaching | Poisoning |
|------|---------|-----------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | 2018-19 | 19 | 81 | 6 | 9 |
| 2 | 2019-20 | 14 | 76 | 9 | 0 |
| 3 | 2020-21 | 12 | 65 | 14 | 2 |

The details of death/killing of other animals are not collated at the level of Ministry.

(d) The important steps taken by the Government to protect wildlife including controlling poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking are as follows:

(i) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).

(ii) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been created for control of wildlife crimes at the Central Government level which work in close coordination with State Forest Departments and other law enforcement agencies.

(iii) Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals, birds and their habitats.

(iv) Financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', which inter-alia, includes Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, for providing better protection to wildlife including birds and improvement of habitat.

(v) A specific component of 'Recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats' is provided in the on-going Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats' for focused conservation action on 22 identified critically endangered species including Humpback whale, Snow leopard, Hangul, Sangai deer, Marine turtle, Bustards, Red Panda, Nicobar megapode, Jerdon's Courser, Caracal and vultures. Financial assistance is provided to States/UT Governments for recovery programme of the critically endangered

species of birds and animals.

(vi) The law enforcement agencies like Border Security Force, Central Industrial Security Force, etc who assist in control of wildlife crime have been trained by the WCCB.

(vii) India is a Party to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES), South Asian Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and coordinates with international agencies in control of wildlife crime.
