

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 06.12.2010
ANSWERED ON
PROTECTION OF FORESTS AND WILDLIFE .

2824

Shri Ishwarlal Shankarlal Jain

Will the Minister of COALENVIROMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the rules and regulations framed by Government for the protection of Indian Forests and wild life are being rampantly violated in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such increase in incidents and violations;
- (c) whether Government has taken or is taking appropriate steps to ensure the safety of wild life and forests in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) The Ministry is aware that there are cases of violations of the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, which are primarily dealt with by the State/Union Territory Governments. Such details are not compiled at the level of the Central Government. Main reasons for violation of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 are increasing demand for wildlife and its products in the domestic and international markets, rampant developmental activities, increasing human-wildlife conflicts and inadequate enforcement machinery etc.

(c) & (d) Important steps taken by the Government for ensuring safety of wildlife in the country include:

- i. Threatened species of wildlife are placed in various Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according these species adequate protection.
- ii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
- iii. A network of Protected Areas has been established to protect: and conserve wildlife including rare animals and their habitats.
- iv. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up as a multi-disciplinary agency to deal with wildlife crimes having inter-state, cross- border and international ramifications.
- v. The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around forest and protected areas.
- vi. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/Union Territory Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' with a view to improving protection and conservation of wildlife.
- vii. India is signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.