

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3424
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

Poaching of leopards

3424. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there have been large number of leopard deaths during last two months; if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of deaths were due to poachers; and
- (c) if so, action taken and proposed to be taken to avoid such killings?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a)and(b) Cases of death of wild animals including leopards have come to the notice of this Ministry. The management and protection of wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/ Union Territory Governments. Information on death of leopards in the States/Union Territories is not collated in the Ministry.

The death of wild animals includes leopards is attributed to various factors like diseases, in-fighting, natural death, poaching etc.

- (c) The measures taken by the Government to prevent hunting of wild animals including leopards include:
 - i. Hunting of wild animals is prohibited under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - ii. 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).
 - iii. Law enforcement authorities in the States maintain strict vigil against poaching of peacocks.

- iv. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles, including peacocks, and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
- v. The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around Protected Areas.
