

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1485**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

**Impact of lifting ban on Rhino horn by China**

1485. SHRI RIPUN BORA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that China has recently lifted its 25 year ban on use and trade of rhino horn and tiger-bone products and that this might give a boost to rhino poachers and traffickers of horns; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to counter this threat, especially in the Kaziranga National Park?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) Newspaper clippings indicating the lifting of 25 year ban on use and trade of rhino horn and tiger-bone products by China has come to the notice of the Ministry.
- (b) Following steps has been taken by the Government for protection of Rhinoceros and tigers :
  - i. The armed personnel in Kaziranga National Park have been deployed. Presently, 382 numbers of Assam Forest Protection Force personnel, 119-Armed Home Guards besides the regular Forest Staff have been deployed in Kaziranga National Park. 50 additional Home Guards have been deployed in Kaziranga National Park recently.
  - ii. Sophisticated weapons like INSAS Rifles and SLR has been procured by the State Government for use in Kaziranga National Park for anti poaching activities.
  - iii. For soliciting cooperation from fringe villagers around Kaziranga National Park and assist in curving Rhino poaching, 50 numbers of Eco-development Committees have been registered through which development works in the villages are being taken up.

- iv. Arrangement has been made to keep 24 hours surveillance on the park through Electronic Eye Surveillance System and drones.
- v. A Special Task Force (STF) headed by an Additional Director General of Police has been constituted by the Government of Assam to curb Rhino poaching in Kaziranga National Park.
- vi. Number of anti-poaching camps have been increased in Kaziranga National Park to increase effective surveillance in and around the Park.
- vii. Joint operation by Forest, Police and STF is also conducted regularly to nab the suspected poachers and joint patrolling is also carried out regularly.
- viii. The funds provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Project Tiger' for protection of wild animals including tigers and rhinoceros in National Parks of Assam including Kaziranga National Park.

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