

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1786
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

Measures to combat the illegal trade of pangolins

1786. DR. C.M. RAMESH:

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

- (a) whether Government has information on the number of pangolins that have been poached and trafficked in India over the last five years, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government is taking any measures to combat the illegal trade of pangolins and protect these endangered animals from further exploitation and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per the information available with the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau, the details of wildlife crime cases related to Pangolin during the last five years are as follows:

Year	Number of cases (seizures of live/dead pangolins or pangolin scales)
2018	19
2019	36
2020	27
2021	45
2022	23

- (b) Steps taken by the Government to protect pangolins include the following:
- (i) The Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) are listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection against poaching and illegal trade.
- (ii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides punishment for poaching of wild animals.
- (iii) The Wild Life Crime Control Bureau issues alerts and

advisories on poaching and illegal trade of wildlife to State and Central agencies for preventive action.

- (iv) Funds are provided by the Government of India under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for habitat enrichment, including maintenance of grasslands which help in conservation of pangolins.
- (v) The Wild Life Crime Control Bureau has undertaken a species specific enforcement operation codenamed LESKNOW in coordination with State enforcement agencies to prevent poaching and illegal trade of less known wild animals including pangolins.
