

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2429
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

Wild animals facing crisis of existence

2429. SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

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

- (a) whether there is any record of total number of wild animals in the country;
- (b) which wild animal/s is/are facing the crisis of existence;
- (c) the number of incidents reported in 2022-23 of illegal haunting of wild animals in the country; and
- (d) the steps are being taken to prevent wild animals in civil areas?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) and (b) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, defines “wild animal” as animal specified in Schedule-I and Schedule-II and found wild in nature. Such animals are accorded protection as per the provisions of the Act. The population estimates of Tiger, Elephant and Lion in the country are as follows:

Species	Year of estimation	Population estimate
Tiger	2022	3682
Asiatic Lion	2020	674
Elephant	2017	29964

- (c) The management of wildlife and its habitats is the responsibility of the concerned State/Union Territories. The details of illegal hunting of wild animals are not collated in the Ministry.
- (d) Wild animals move from their natural habitats to human dominated areas due to several factors such as migration, natural territorial aggression amongst the animals, habitat destruction, etc. The important steps taken to reduce such incidences include:
 - (i) Ministry provides financial assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, for conservation of wildlife, including habitat improvement, creating water holes, soil and moisture conservation works, etc.

- (ii) Financial assistance is provided to States/Union Territories for augmenting the availability of food and water within forest areas so as to reduce the entry of animals from forests to human dominated habitations.
- (iii) Sensitization, awareness and participation of people has been a part of wild life management strategy of village eco-development in the fringe forests.
- (iv) In case of single or a few animals venture into human habitations, capture and relocation have been adopted in accordance with provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (v) Construction /erection of physical barriers, such as animal proof trenches, fence, bio-fencing, etc. to prevent the entry of wild animals into crop fields have been taken up in States/Union Territories.
- (vi) Use of technology to monitor the herds/ animal/s through GPS, drones etc. are practiced so as to provide early warning system.
