

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 106
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024

Measures for control of population of wild animals

106* SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the population of four species of wild animals, viz., elephants, monkeys, street dogs and nilgai is increasing rapidly in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has initiated any project to take preventive contraceptive measures animal-wise, for population management of the afore-cited four species;
- (c) if so, the details of such project, including cost and expenditure involved; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c) AND (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *106 REGARDING “MEASURES FOR CONTROL OF POPULATION OF WILD ANIMALS” BY SHRI KESRIDEVSINH JHALA FOR REPLY ON 01.08.2024.

- (a) Elephant, Nilgai and several species of Monkeys are protected under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The conservation efforts taken over the years have led to an increase in the population of several species of wild animals. Periodic population estimation of flagship species like Asian Elephant, Tiger, Leopard and Asiatic Lion are being undertaken. The details of population assessment of Asian Elephant are as follows:

Year	2007	2012	2017
Asian Elephant (Population/ Population Range)	27,669-27,719	29,391-30,711	29,964

The population assessment of Nilgai and Monkeys are not being undertaken at pan-India level.

The street dogs are not protected under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The management of street dogs are under the purview of the Department of Animal husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

As per the Livestock Census, the population of street dogs are as follows:

Year	(2012)	(2019)
Stray dog population	1,71,38,349	1,53,09,355

- (b), (c) &(d) The Wildlife Institute of India has been assigned a study on “Population Management of Species involved in Human-Wildlife conflict” to develop a range of mitigation strategies including the applicability of immuno-contraceptive measures to manage populations of Elephants, Nilgais, Rhesus Macaque and Wild pigs.

The management of stray dog population are carried out by the respective local bodies/municipalities/Municipal Corporations and Panchayats. Accordingly, the Central Government under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has notified the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 which enables the local authority to conduct the Animal Birth Control Program.
