

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1028
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Rhino protection programme in the country

1028. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:

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

- (a) whether there is any law or steps taken for the protection of the rhinos across the country;
- (b) whether Government has implemented any procedures to increase the production of the rhinos in the national parks of the country; and
- (c) the precautions taken so far to safeguard the wild animals in the flood affected area like Kaziranga national park?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) and (b) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for conservation, protection and management of wild life including Indian/Greater One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) found in India. The important steps taken for protection and conservation of the species in the country include:
- i. Indian/Greater One-horned Rhinoceros has been listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
 - ii. Protected Areas have been declared in the country for conservation and protection of the wildlife including Rhinoceros.
 - iii. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) coordinates with States/UTs and other enforcement agencies to gather intelligence regarding hunting and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles. WCCB also conducts capacity building for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes.
 - iv. In accordance with provisions contained under Section 33 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Ministry has issued guidelines for the

process of management planning for Protected Areas and other landscape elements.

- v. Financial assistance is provided to States for protection and conservation of Rhinoceros under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ and ‘Project Tiger and Elephant’.
- vi. Indian one-horned Rhinoceros has been identified as one of the 22 critically endangered species by the Ministry for providing financial assistance to States/UTs for species recovery programme under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’.
- vii. The State Government of Assam has established specialized forces such as Special Rhino Protection Force and Assam Forest Protection Force equipped and trained to monitor rhino habitats and curb poaching activities.

(c) As informed by the State Government of Assam, the important measures implemented to safeguard wild animals during annual floods in Kaziranga include:

- i. creation of artificial highlands to provide refuge for animals during high water levels;
- ii. use of thermal drones and electronic sensor cameras for real time monitoring;
- iii. notification of wildlife corridors and enforcement of speed limits on the national highway passing through the Park to help ensure the safe movement of animals during floods.
