

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4372
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2026

Prevention of wildlife trafficking

4372. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of instances of international wildlife trafficking through the international borders of West Bengal, particularly the Sundarbans region and North Bengal;
- (b) the number of cases of wildlife and rare species trafficking registered during the last five years, year-wise;
- (c) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government to designate the State's international border as a "High-Risk Wildlife Transit Zone"; and
- (d) if not, whether the Central Government would consider undertaking an assessment and appropriate measures in this regard to strengthen border surveillance and prevent wildlife trafficking?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Conservation, management and protection of the wildlife, including prevention of illegal trafficking, is primarily the responsibility of the respective States Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers States Governments and Union Territory Administrations for making seizures, and registering offence in case of contravention of the provisions of the Act. As per the information available with the Ministry, the number of cases reported by the State and Central law enforcement agencies to the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) along the international border of West Bengal during the last five years are provided below:

Year	No. of Cases
2021	28
2022	1
2023	8
2024	16
2025	27

- (c) and (d) There is no proposal received from the Government of West Bengal to designate State's international border as a "High-Risk Wildlife Transit Zone".
The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various agencies and State Governments to combat organized crimes. It also conducts sensitization programme for the border guarding forces and awareness programmes for the Panchayati Raj Institutions.
