

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3151
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2017

Poaching of Turtles

3151. SHRI SUMAN BALKA:
SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

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

- (a) whether there have been increasing cases of turtle poaching in the country during the last several years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has launched a specific operation on turtles, code named “Operation Save Kurma”; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the number of turtles recovered and arrests made under the operation, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a) As informed by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, the data provided by the State enforcement agencies to Bureau does not indicate such trend.
- (b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has coordinated a species specific operation code named “Operation Save Kurma” to invite attention of all the enforcement agencies throughout the country toward poaching and illegal trade in turtle and tortoises.

State-wise details of turtles recovered and arrests made as per the details provided to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau by the State authorities, is as under:

SNo	Name of State	No. of Turtles recovered	No. of Arrests made
1	Haryana	4	1
2	Karnataka	281	3
3	Maharashtra	19	4
4	Rajasthan	3	1
5	Uttar Pradesh	8767	13
6	West Bengal	6838	33
	TOTAL	15912	55
