

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4292**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2017**

**Smuggling of Pangolin Scales**

4292. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:  
SHRI KAMAL NATH

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that illegal trade in Pangolin Scales have increased in the last few years and is threatening the existence of the endangered mammals in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) Whether the special Task Force of Madhya Pradesh has recently busted the network of smugglers of the Pangolin Scales;
- (c) if so, the details of the persons/ poachers arrested in this connection; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check smuggling of Pangolin Scales particularly from Madhya Pradesh?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a) As informed by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, poaching had increased in last few years but is under control now after actions taken by Special Task Force (STF) against poachers and traders.
- (b) & (c) The Special Task Force of Madhya Pradesh has taken steps to arrest 126 number of accused in connection with poaching and illegal trade in scales of Pangolins from 10 states in coordination with the Wild Life Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and enforcement agencies of other states. The details are as under -

S. No.	Name of Division/ Tiger Reserve from where person arrested	Date on crime filed	No. of Person Arrested
1.	Gwalior Forest Division	03.12.2015	15
2.	West Chhindwara Division	30.04.2015	17
3.	Balaghaat Division	20.09.2014	23
4.	Pench Tiger Reserve	20.05.2015	15

5.	Satpura Tiger Reserve	13.07.2015	29
6.	Gwalior Forest Division	24.05.2016	5
7.	Pench Tiger Reserve	27.06.2016	3
8.	Katni Forest Division	21.02.2016	14
9.	Rajgarh Forest Division	17.01.2011	5
<b>Total</b>			<b>126</b>

- (d) The steps taken by the Government through the WCCB to check smuggling of Pangolin Scales from within the country, *inter alia*, include all species of Pangolins being brought under Appendix I of CITES, sensitization of border guarding forces, customs and Central Industrial Security Force(CISF) officials at exit points issuing alerts and advisories on poaching and illegal trade of wildlife to the concerned State and Central agencies and joint operations with State enforcement agencies to apprehend criminals involved in smuggling.

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