

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4635
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2018

Arming Wildlife Wardens against Poachers

4635. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN :

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

- (a) whether poaching of the single-horned rhinoceros in the Kaziranga National Park and other Wildlife Sanctuaries, such as Orang National Park, and Pobitora Park etc. is on the rise in the recent times;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of rhinoceros killed in these sanctuaries by the poachers in the past five years;
- (c) whether the examination of the kill sites and the bullets used, reveal that the poachers have been using very sophisticated firearms, such as AK-56 rifles, M16 and M4 carbines and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal with his Ministry to equip the Wildlife Wardens with the indigenous hybrid rifle, Ghatak, in an effort to modernize their equipment to challenge the poachers and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) and (b) Information received from the State of Assam shows the details of rhinos poached during the last five years which indicates that there is no increase in killing of rhinoceros in the State except in 2016.

Year	No. of Rhino poached
2013	41
2014	32
2015	21
2016	22
2017	8

- (c) Yes, Madam. Details of recovery of arms and ammunition in Kaziranga National Park is given in the **Annexure**.

(d) The Assam Forest Department has already procured following arms to modernised field level staff engaged in protection of rhino and other wild animals:

- i. SLR -954 nos.
- ii. INSAS -272 nos.
- iii. Ghatak -91 nos.
- iv. 12 Bore Rifles (PA giver) -133 nos.
- v. 9 mm pistol -20 nos.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4635 REGARDING “ARMING WILDLIFE WARDENS AGAINST POACHERS” RAISED BY SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.3.2018

Details of recovery of arms and ammunition in Kaziranga National Park

Year	Arms	Ammunition	Others
2013	1. 0.303-7 nos. 2. Stand Gun-1no 3. Silencer-2nos.	70 Rds	-
2014	1. 0.303-11 nos. 2. Rifle bore not ascertain- 3 nos. 3. SBBL-2nos. 4. Handmade Gun-4 nos 5. Silencer-2 nos.	83 Rds	-
2015	1. 0.303 -16 nos. 2. .315 -3 nos. 3. Handmade Gun-2 nos 4. .85mm pistol -1 no 5. .22 rifle -3 nos 6. Silencer-8 nos	Total ammunition- 220 Rds	-
2016	1. 0.303 Rifles-8 nos. 2. AK-47-1 no 3. .22 Rifle-1 no 4. Handmade Gun-2 nos	120 Rds	1.AK-47 rifle Magzine-2 nos 2. 303 rifles Magzine-3 no 3.Silencer-2 nos 4. Rifles bolt-2 no. 5.Rifle Butt-1 no 6. Body of .303 rifle- 1 no. with barrel.
2017	1. 303 Rifle -1 no. 2. Modified .303 MK IV Rifle-3 nos 3. Automated AK series Rifle-1 no 4. .303 Rifle bolt- 2 nos	1. .303 live ammunitions--32 Rds 2. Suspected .22 ammunition-1 Rd 3. .30-60 Live Ammunition-10 Rds 4. 5.56 Live Ammunition-15 Rds 5. .66 Live Ammunition-05 Rds	-