

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3140**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2023

**Environmental Cases**

3140. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that environmental cases can be registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of numbers of cases that were registered under s. 7 and s. 8 read with s. 15 of the Environmental Protection Act during the last eight years, Year-wise;
- (d) if so, the number of such reported cases where the relevant sections of PMLA invoked; and
- (e) the details of the amount of penalty paid by the individuals and corporations under s. 7 and s. 8 read with s. 15 during the last five years?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b) As informed by Directorate of Enforcement (ED), offences under Section 15 read with Section 7 & Section 15 read with Section 8 of Environment Protection Act, 1986; offences under Section 41 (2) & 43 of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and offences under section 37 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 are scheduled offence under Part-A of the Schedule to Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

Further, as informed by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), WCCB is mandated to act against the organized wildlife crime and to enforce the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (WPA) and paragraph 6 of the Schedule to PMLA pertains to offences covered under Sections 9, 17A, 39, 44, 48, 49B (all read with Section 51) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (WPA). Therefore, if any wildlife crime case is booked under any of the aforementioned Sections of WPA, that offence becomes a predicate offence to be investigated under PMLA also.

(c) to (e) The ED has taken up 03 cases for investigation under PMLA, 2002 wherein Section 15 r/w section 7 & 8 of the Environmental Protection Act, 1986 have been invoked which

are schedule offences under PMLA. In these cases, during investigations, proceeds of crime amounting to Rs.8.38 crores have been identified and attached.

Further, 02 cases of wildlife crime have been referred to ED to invoke provisions of PMLA against accused arrested in the case.

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