

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3015
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2019.

Poaching of Animals

3015. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the number of incidents of poaching of various species of animals including lions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons identified for increase in poaching;
- (c) whether 37 different species were poached or seized in 2018 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue of poaching in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) & (b) As per information received from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau based on the information received from the State Forest and Police Authorities, number of wildlife crime cases for last three years are given below:

S. No.	Year	Total no. of cases registered under wildlife protection Act
1.	2016	565
2.	2017	342
3.	2018	388

- (c) As per information available informed by the state authorities cases involving only 20 species of wildlife has been registered as per details enclosed as **Annexure A**.
- (d) The major steps taken by the Government to tackle the issue of poaching in the country are as follows:
- i. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation

of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).

- ii. Law enforcement authorities in the States maintain strict vigil against poaching of wild animals.
- iii. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
- iv. The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around Protected Areas.
- v. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
- vi. Financial assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant', for providing better protection to wildlife including leopards and improvement of habitat.

Annexure - A

Species wise data of cases registered for the year 2018 as provided by State Police and Forest Authorities		
S.No.	Name of Species	No. of cases registered in 2018
1	Scheduled Birds	61
2	Deer	36
3	Elephant	27
4	Langoor	1
5	Leopard	81
6	Monkey	4
7	Mongoose	15
8	Monitor Lizard	6
9	Otter	1
10	Pangolin	14
11	Peacock	7
12	Rhino	16
13	Sand Boa	5
14	Sea Cucumber	2
15	Sea Horse	5
16	Shark Fish	3
17	Snake	19
18	Star Tortoise / Turtle	39
19	Tiger	42
20	Tockay Gecko	4
	Total	388