

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4158**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2019

**Protection of One-horned Rhinoceros**

4158. DR. HEENA GAVIT:  
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT:  
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:

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

- (a) the total number of one-horned rhinoceros in the country as on date, State and forest-wise;
- (b) the number of such one-horned rhinoceros that perished naturally and of those killed by poachers in the last decade, year and State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to review the existing wildlife protection mechanism in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) the problem faced by the Government in ensuring protection to rhinoceros and other endangered animals; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the rampant poaching of these endangered animals in various national parks and wildlife sanctuaries?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) In India, one-horned rhinoceros in wild are found only in the three States viz, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Census of Rhinoceros is undertaken at the State-level by the respective State Governments periodically.

State wise population estimation of one-horned rhinoceros is as follows:

State	Year of population estimation	Total No. of One-horned rhinoceros
Assam	2018	2650
Uttar Pradesh	2015	34
West Bengal	2019	289

- (b) As per the information received from the State Governments, the records of one-horned rhinoceros that perished naturally and killed by poachers are as follows:

<b>State: Assam</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Naturally perished</b>	<b>Killed by Poachers</b>
2009	64	14
2010	75	8
2011	61	12
2012	114	17
2013	83	37
2014	62	32
2015	64	21
2016	105	22
2017	153	9
2018	88	7
2019 (current year)	85	3

<b>State: West Bengal</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Naturally perished</b>	<b>Killed by Poachers</b>
2010-11	3	0
2011-12	7	0
2012-13	8	0
2013-14	5	0
2014-15	7	6
2015-16	7	2
2016-17	8	0
2017-18	8	3
2018-19	6	1
2019-20 (till 06.12.2019)	3	1

- (c) and (d) The existing wildlife protection mechanisms are reviewed by the Government periodically for the protection and conservation of wildlife species.
- (e) The problems faced by the Government in ensuring protection to one-horned rhinoceros and other endangered species includes poaching activities, lack of

front-line staff, lesser number of sophisticated weapons and communication equipments with forest departments etc.

- (f) The steps taken by the Government to prevent the rampant poaching of these endangered animals in various national parks and wildlife sanctuaries includes:
- 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. Arrangement has been made to keep 24 hours surveillance on the parks through Electronic Eye Surveillance System, drones, watch towers.
  - iii. Number of anti-poaching camps have been increased to effective surveillance in and around National Parks and wildlife sanctuaries.
  - iv. Joint operation by Forest, Police and STF is also conducted regularly to nab the suspected poachers and joint patrolling is carried out regularly.
  - v. Communication and wireless network have been strengthened.
  - vi. One-horned Rhinoceros is one of the 21 species identified for Recovery programme for critically endangered species, a component under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'. Under this scheme Central assistance is provided for the recovery and protection of these species.
  - vii. Most of the rhino habitats in three states are covered under Tiger Reserves. The funds provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Project Tiger' for protection and conservation of tigers in these states also provides protection and conservation to other animals including one-horned Rhinoceros. For other Protected Areas having rhino population, financial assistance is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Development of Wildlife Habitats'.
  - viii. Coordination amongst various parallel law enforcement agencies like the Police, BSF, Customs, SSB etc.
  - ix. Liaisoning with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau for information sharing and preventing wildlife crime.
  - x. Training and awareness camps for JFMCs and local villagers.
  - xi. Provision of arms and ammunitions to the staff involved in protection work.

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