

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2837**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

**Poaching and Smuggling of Wild Animals**

2837. SHRI KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the incidents of poaching and smuggling of wild animals in the country has increased in the country during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of cases smuggling and poaching of wild animals came to light along with the number of persons against whom action has been taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of increasing encroachments in the buffer zones in forests across the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the increasing human-wildlife conflict along with the action taken to check encroachments in the buffer zones in forests?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) The management of forest and wildlife, including control of encroachments, hunting and smuggling of wild animals and their parts, is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administration.

As per the records available with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, the number of wildlife offence cases and the number of accused arrested in such cases during the last three years are as under:

S. No	Year	Number of cases	Number of accused arrested
1	2019	958	1328
2	2020	767	1392
3	2021	543	706

- (d) The steps taken by the Government to reduce human-wildlife conflict and check encroachments include:
- i. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for management of wildlife and its habitats in the country. The funds are also used for construction /erection of physical barriers such as solar powered electric fence, bio-fencing using cactus, boundary walls, animal proof trenches around forests etc. and for augmentation of fodder and water in forests in order to restrict wild animals to forest areas. The financial support to States/UTs also includes a component of compensation due to damage by wild animals.
  - ii. Funds for voluntary relocation of villages from the core areas of Tiger Reserves, National Parks and Sanctuaries are provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'.
  - iii. An advisory on handling human-wildlife conflict has been issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to States/Union Territories on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
  - iv. To mitigate human wildlife conflict along linear infrastructure like rail tracks, roads/highways and power transmission lines passing through the Protected Areas and other wildlife rich areas, the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife has recommended that all linear infrastructure development agencies, should submit animal passage plans based on the guidelines prepared by Wildlife Institute of India.
  - v. The Ministry has written to State Governments/UT Administrations to remove encroachment as per the existing Acts/Rules and to ensure that no further encroachment takes place. In order to prevent and control encroachments, the States and UTs have been requested to take measures such as demarcation and digitization of forest boundaries, strengthening infrastructure for forest protection, involving fringe area forest communities through Joint Forest Management Committees and Eco Development Committees etc.

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