

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3490**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022**

**Ivory Smuggling**

3490. PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:  
SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:  
DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:  
DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:  
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:  
DR. HEENA GAVIT:

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

- (a) the details of the recent assessments that have been carried out during the last three years to ascertain ivory smuggling in the country;
- (b) the number of poaching incidents of male elephants that have been reported during the said period, State-wise;
- (c) the gender ratio of Asian elephant population in the country and whether it has been disturbed by the selective poaching of male elephants for ivory; and
- (d) the details of the plans, if any, to stop these stockpile sales of ivory to reduce ivory smuggling and elephant poaching?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a)&(b) As per the information received from Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, the details of number of cases of elephant ivory/tusk seizures which were detected in the country from 2019 to 2021 are given below:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of cases
1.	2019	27
2.	2020	21
3.	2021	42

The details on poaching of male elephants are not compiled in the Ministry, however, State/year wise data of elephant death due to poaching, as per the information received from States, is enclosed as Annexure.

(c)&(d) The data regarding gender ratio of Asian elephant is not collated in Project Elephant Division of the Ministry. However, State Governments being the primary responders take necessary steps for prevention of crimes related to elephant poaching and illegal ivory smuggling.

Further, the following measures has been taken by Ministry to reduce ivory smuggling and elephant poaching:-

- (i) The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes 'Project Elephant' for protection and conservation of elephants and their habitats in the country including patrolling duties, reward to informers on information on sale/smuggling of ivory etc.
- (ii) A advisory on Human-Wildlife Conflict including dealing the wildlife crime has been issued by the Ministry on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.
- (iii) Capacity building of frontline staff for investigation, forensics and successful prosecution of wildlife cases are being organised at regular interval.
- (iv) In addition, the Ministry in coordination with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has taken following measures to stop ivory smuggling and elephant poaching:
  - Conducting joint operations with State enforcement agencies to apprehend criminals including poachers/ivory traders.
  - Conducting capacity building for Forests and Police Officials on investigation of wildlife cases under the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - Conducting sensitisation programme for the officials of Board Guarding Forces, Customs, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Judicial officers, RPF, GRP and other stakeholders.
  - Issuing alerts and advisories on poaching and illegal trade of wildlife to the concerned state and Central agencies for preventive actions.
  - The WCCB has developed an online Wildlife Crime Database Management System and shared user credentials with 970 Divisional Forest Offices, 50 Field Directors of Tiger Reserves and 37 Chief Wildlife Wardens in the Forest Department and 34 Directors General of Police to upload data pertaining to wildlife crime detected on day to day basis.
  - WCCB has also conducted special pan India enforcement operation to coordinate action among State/Central enforcement agencies. Ivory seizures have been effected in the "Operation WILDNET-I, II, III and IV".
  - Moreover, WCCB participated in global operations such as operation Thunderbird envisaged by INTERPOL's Wildlife Working Group, Operation THUNDERSTORM, Operation THUNDERBALL and Operation Thunder 2021, which resulted in the arrest of many criminals and seizures

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**ANNEXURE**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3490 RAISED BY PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI: SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR: DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV: DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL: DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: DR. HEENA GAVIT REGARDING 'IVORY SMUGGLING' DUE FOR REPLY ON 08.08.2022.**

**Elephant Deaths by Poaching from 2018-19 to 2020-2021**

S.No	State	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
1	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0
5	Jharkhand	1	1	0
6	Karnataka	0	0	0
7	Kerala	0	1	1
8	Maharashtra	0	0	NR
9	Meghalaya	1	4	7
10	Nagaland	0	0	2
11	Odisha	2	3	2
12	Tamil Nadu	1	0	2
13	Tripura	NR	0	0
14	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0
15	Uttarakhand	1	0	NR
16	West Bengal	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>

\*NR- Information not received from State.