

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3630
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

Poaching/Killing of Wild Animals

3630. SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

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

- (a) whether a large number of cases related to poaching/killing/death of rhinos and elephants in Assam specially in Kaziranga National Park come to notice every year;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases registered and the number of wild animal killed/poached during the last three years including current year, year-wise along with the cause of death/killing; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per the information received from the State Government of Assam, poaching/killing of rhinos has been controlled significantly in all rhino bearing Protected Areas in Assam since 2019. The number of cases of elephant poaching in the State has also been insignificant since 2019.
- (b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.
- (c) The steps taken by the Government to control poaching include the following:
 - i. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
 - ii. Endangered species of animals including tiger, elephant, rhinoceros, lion, etc. are listed under Schedule –I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
 - iii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, provides for stringent punishments for wildlife offences. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicles or weapons that is used for committing wildlife offences.
 - iv. The Wild Life Crime Control Bureau has been set up to strengthen the enforcement of law for control of poaching and

illegal trade in wildlife and its products by gathering intelligence, coordinating with the States/UTs and also with border and trans border authorities.

- 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 and technical 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 and improvement of its habitat.
- vii. The Central Bureau of Investigation has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- viii. The Ministry has initiated Rhino DNA Indexing System to counter poaching threats to one-horned rhinoceros and aid population management.
- ix. Special Rhino Protection Force has been created in Kaziranga National Park with the help of NTCA. This force is trained to combat the problem of poaching of rhinoceros, elephants, tigers, etc. in Kaziranga, Assam.
