GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2617

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 16TH DECEMBER, 2025/ AGRAHAYANA 25, 1947 (SAKA)

WILDLIFE SMUGGLING THROUGH NORTHEAST BORDERS

2617. DR. AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of increased wildlife smuggling through India's northeast borders involving exotic species from South-East Asia and Latin America;
- (b) if so, the number of wildlife smuggling cases registered in the northeast States in the past five years, State-wise breakup and the conviction rate in such cases;
- (c) whether the Border Security Force, Assam Rifles and other paramilitary forces deployed in the northeast have been trained and equipped to detect and prevent wildlife trafficking; and
- (d) if so, the details of such training programmes and coordination mechanisms with wildlife protection agencies?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) & (b): The Ministry is aware of wildlife smuggling at the borders, however, the Border Guarding Forces are effectively countering this issue by apprehending criminals. There have been cases of wildlife smuggling and its seizures in the States of Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Tripura.

The details of number of cases registered and conviction rates in such cases, state-wise, are not maintained by the Ministry.

(c) & (d): The Border Guarding Forces (BGFs) do not possess any specialized training or equipment dedicated to detecting wildlife trafficking. The wildlife trafficking cases are detected whenever their smuggling takes place across the border during regular border surveillance. If any wildlife / exotic species are recovered/seized during border surveillance, the same are handed over to the Forest Departments/Customs Departments of the concerned States. There are mechanisms in place for coordination with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB). District-level meetings with the concerned civil authorities are being held regularly in which such types of issues are discussed and coordinated.
