

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**QUESTION NO 21.12.2009**

**ANSWERED ON**

**PROJECTS FOR CONSERVATION AND GROWTH OF WILD ANIMALS .**

3412

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) the special projects being implemented for conservation and growth of wild animals, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the killing of elephants and tortoise during the last year; and
- (c) the specific arrangements made to prevent it?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Two Special Projects viz. Project Tiger and Project Elephant are under implementation for conservation and growth of wild animals. The States implementing Project Tiger and Project Elephant are given at Annexure. In addition, Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats is implemented for conservation and growth of all wild animals under which following special programmes have been launched.

i. Project Snow leopard in the Himalayan States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttarakhand. ii. Vulture Conservation programme in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Orissa. iii. Project Hangul in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. iv. Conservation of Manipur Dancing Deer in the State of Manipur. v. Conservation of Edible Nest of Swiftlets in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(b) During 2008-2009, 13 elephants have been poached. The information of Tortoise killing is not collated in the Ministry.

(c) The steps taken by the Central Government for protection of wild animals including elephants and tortoises are:

1. Threatened species of wildlife including elephant and tortoises are included in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.

2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.

3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals.

4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

5. The State/ UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.