

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1065
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
POACHING OF MUSK DEERS
MOHAN RAWALE

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

(a) whether poaching of musk-deers and other rare animals is continuing unabated in Himalayan region for the last few years and their use in preparing drugs, especially sexual enhancement drugs is the main reason behind it; and

(b) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government for protection of musk-deers ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) Poaching of rare animals including musk deer from Himalayan region is reported from time to time. Animals like musk deer and rhinoceros are mainly poached for musk and horn respectively which are used in aphrodisiac formulations.

(b) The steps taken by the Government for protection of musk deer are as follows:

(i) Musk deer is included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest degree of protection. Hunting of musk deer is prohibited under the provisions of the Act.

(ii) The penalty for poaching of musk deer and illegal trade in its parts and products has been enhanced from minimum of one year to three years and maximum of six years to seven years. Provision has also been made for forfeiture of property of the habitual offenders.

(iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wild life offenders.

(iv) The State Governments have been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to reward any person who renders assistance in the detection of wild life offence and apprehension of the offenders up to an extent of Rs. 10,000/-