

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4175
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
SMUGGLING OF SNAKE VENOM
C. SREENVAASAN;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

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

- (a) whether the smuggling of Snake Venom and snake related materials is rampant in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of cases which have come to the notice of the Union Government during each of the last three years, State-wise ;
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Union Government propose to bring any fresh law to make the punishment of smuggling of snake venom and snake materials more stringent; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a)&(b) Incidences of smuggling of snake skins and other derivatives are detected from time to time. Prevention of smuggling in wild life and its products is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. State-wise details of cases of seizures are not maintained at the level of the Central Government. However, few important cases detected during the last three years are at Annexure.

(c) Action taken by the Central Government to prevent smuggling of snake venom and articles are as follows:

1. Hunting of snake species mentioned in the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is prohibited.
2. Trade in certain rare and endangered species of snakes and articles made from them is prohibited.
3. Export and Import of snake, its parts and products and derivatives is prohibited.
4. Trade in snake venom is regulated as per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
5. Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wild life preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.
6. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wild life offenders. Anti poaching/trading efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

(d) There is no proposal to bring any fresh law to make smuggling of snake venom and articles more stringent.

(e) Does not arise.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) &(b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. REGARDING SMUGGLING IN SNAKE VENOM BY SHRI C. SREENIVASAN AND SHRI PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA.

Seizure of snake venom and articles by the wild life enforcement officials during the last three years.

Sl No.	Date/Year	Items seized	Quantity seized
1	13.6.2000	Snake skins	1757 numbers
2	13.7.2000	Snake skins and 3 pieces of garments made of snake skins	1029 numbers
3	2.3.2001	Snake skins	14 numbers
4	15.3.2001	Snake skins	145 numbers
5	14.2.2002	Snake skins	80 numbers
6	30.7.2002	Snake venom	912 grams