

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:99
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006
POPULATION OF GHARIYALS
Argal Shri Ashok

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

- (a) the number of ghariyals killed during the last two years;
- (b) the number of ghariyals at present in 'Chambal Ghariyal Punarvas Kendra';
- (c) whether sand is being taken away illegally from the Chambal river which is reserved for ghariyals;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken/likely to be taken against the guilty persons in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) As reported by State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, no ghariyal has been killed during the last two years.
- (b) At present, there are 181 ghariyal hatchlings in Deori Ghariyal Rearing Center, Madhya Pradesh. and 455 ghariyals in Kukrail Gharial Centre, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. No such Centre has been reported in Rajasthan.
- (c) Yes, Sir. Incidences of illegal sand mining are sometimes detected at the places protected for conservation of ghariyals.
- (d) Sand is an important building material which is available only in river beds. Due to its high demand unscrupulous elements indulge in illegal sand mining. Shortage of enforcement staff is a limiting factor.
- (e) Strict vigil is kept by the field staff to apprehend the culprits and legal action is taken against the offenders under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as well as the respective State Forest Acts.