

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:91  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2006  
RADIO CALLER ON SWAMP DEERS  
Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to install radio caller on swamp deers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether population of swamp deers in the country is decreasing day by day;
- (d) if so, the number of such deers in the country as on date as compared to previous census; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the swamp deers in the country ?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has granted permission to the Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttaranchal, for radio collaring eight Swamp deer ( *Cervus duvaucelii*) in the Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve under Section 12 (b) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to track their migration.

(c) & (d) Swamp deer is found in Uttaranchal (Jhilmil Jheel), adjoining swamps along Ganga in Uttar Pradesh (Dudhwa, Katerniaghat and Hastinapur Protected Areas), Kaziranga National Park in Assam and Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh. Studies at Wildlife Institute of India have shown that population of Swamp deer has been showing encouraging trends and has been estimated to be between 2000 to 2400. There are no reports from the State Governments mentioning that the population of Swamp deer has declined.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to protect the Swamp deer in the country are as follows: Steps taken at National level:

(i) Swamp deer have been included in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby giving it the highest degree of protection.

(ii) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that are used for committing wild life offence.

(iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

Steps taken at State level:

i) The field staff have been alerted to be on the look out for any poaching activity in their jurisdiction.

ii) Wide publicity is given through media on the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 against poaching.

iii) Regular patrolling is organized by the field staff.

iv) Strict vigil is maintained through effective communication systems.