

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1746
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006
PROTECTION OF CHIRU
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Sino-Indian agreement on protection of Chiru has been made or is proposed to be made;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the population of Chiru alongwith the steps to protect/increase their population?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) An Indian delegation visited China during June 2006. During the meeting both the countries had agreed to strengthen joint efforts in combating poaching and illegal trade in endangered species, in particular big cats and Tibetan Antelope in compliance with national legislation as well as the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild flora and fauna (CITES). However, no specific agreement in respect of Chiru has been made.

(c) As reported by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Tibetan Antelope (Chiru) are found in Ladakh region of Dhauliganga (D.B.O) North of Ladakh in Karakoram Range and Chang Chenmo valley (Hot spring) in North East of Ladakh. As per the information available, a small migratory population of 200-250 Chiru has been found in the Ladakh region. The steps taken to protect the population of Chiru are as follows:

- (i) Tibetan Antelope has been included in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby giving them highest degree of protection.
- (ii) The Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 was amended during the year 2002 re-listing the Tibetan Antelope from Schedule-II to Schedule-I, hence providing maximum protection to the species.
- (iii) The two prime habitats of Chiru have been declared as Wildlife Sanctuaries, viz, Karakoram Sanctuary (5000 Sq.kms) and Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary (4000 Sq. Kms).
- (iv) The Ministry is providing financial assistance to both the Wildlife Sanctuaries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries".