

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2302
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
LEOPARDS KILLED ACROSS THE COUNTRY
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppasamy

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

- (a) whether a number of leopards were killed recently across the country;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the incidents of human- animal conflicts are increasing;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the endangered animals and to educate the human beings for the protection of the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)&(b) As per the information received from the State/UT Governments, no large scale killing of leopards have been brought to the notice of this Ministry in recent times. However, a few cases of killing of leopards have been reported in the country during the last one year. The details are at annexure.

(c)&(d) There are reports of several man-animal conflicts in the country. The reasons for these conflicts, inter alia, include the following:

1. Increasing human and cattle population
2. Fragmentation of habitats and shrinking of prey base.
3. Changing cropping patterns, which attract wild animals.

(e) Steps taken by the Central Government to protect endangered animals and to educate the human beings for the protection wildlife include the following:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to protect wildlife.
2. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.10. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime. 11. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries have been set up across the country to protect wildlife12. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State /UTs Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats by undertaking various activities including those aiming at reducing man-animal conflicts. The Schemes also provide for undertaking various mass awareness campaigns for educating public about nature conservation. 13. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives. In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following steps to protect endangered animals and to educate the human beings for the protection of wildlife.
1. Rescue operations of animals found too close to human habitations.
2. Increased vigil and extensive patrolling by forest staff.
3. Provision of arms and ammunition.
4. Construction of protection camps, watch towers etc. in vulnerable areas.
5. Payment of compensation to people on death, injury and crop damage by wild animals.
6. Mass awareness campaigns among local people, panchayats and schools in the fringe areas of the forests.
7. Involvement of local people in protection works through ecocodevelopment and Joint Forest Management programmes.