

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2332
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
DECLINING OF WILD ANIMALS
Masood Shri Rasheed

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

- (a) whether the population of musk deers has declined over the years in Kedarnath Vihar, Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the State Government of Uttarakhand has failed to utilize the funds allocated by the Union Government from allocated by the Union Government from 2001 to 2006 under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Project Tiger, Project Elephant and the development of National Park;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has brought out the facts related to the declining of numbers of wild animals in the State of Uttarakhand;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps being taken by the Government to check declining population of wild animals?

Answer

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

(a) As informed by the State Government, there is some decline in the population of musk deers in Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttarakhand.

(b) The details of population of musk deers in Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary are as under

Year No. of
Musk Deer

2001 61
2003 63
2005 37

As informed by the State Government, decline in the population of musk deer during 2005 has been due to the migration of musk deers to other areas when the census operation was conducted, as there had been an overall increase in the total population of the musk deer in the State between 2003 and 2005.

(c) No, Sir. The State Government has utilized the funds released under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(d) Does not arise.

(e)&(f) No, Sir. There is no mention of decline of musk deer population in the State of Uttarakhand in the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General. However, there is a mention of decline of population of musk deer in Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary.

(g) The steps taken by Government of India to check declining population wild animals, inter alia, include the following:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime.
2. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries have been set up across the country to protect wildlife
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife

crime.

5. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes – Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State /UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.

6. 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.

7. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

In addition, the State Government has also taken the following measures to protect wild animals.

1. Development of wildlife habitat to increase the population of wild animals.
2. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
3. Deployment of Ex-service men for patrolling.
3. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
4. Provision for arms and ammunition and communication facilities.
5. Training to frontline staff.