

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:982
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006
TIBETAN ANTELOPE
Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) the places in India where Tibetan Antelope (Cheeru) are found alongwith their numbers;
- (b) whether the said antelopes are being hunted on a large scale for smuggling of their skin; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to take stern action against them?

Answer

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

- (a) As reported by Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Tibetan Antelope (Cheeru) are found in Ladakh region of Dault Beig Olde (D.B.O.) North of Ladakh in Korakaram Range and Chang Chenmo Valley (Hot spring) in North east of Ladakh. A recent survey has reported 200-250 Antelopes in Ladakh area.
- (b) No hunting of the Antelopes is reported by the State Government.
- (c) The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has taken the following steps for protection and preservation of the Tibetan Antelope :
 1. The two prime habitats have been declared as Wildlife Sanctuaries, namely, Korakaram Wildlife Sanctuary (5000 sq. km) and Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary (4000 sq. km).
 2. 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.
 3. Ministry is providing financial assistance to both the Wildlife Sanctuaries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries'.
 4. Ministry has also directed that Ladakh scouts, Indo Tibetan Border Police and other Government agencies posted in border areas should be informed to take adequate measures to prevent illegal trans-border trade of wild animals and their derivatives.