

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3548
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
DECLINING POPULATION OF SNOW LEOPARDS
Rajendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the number of snow leopards has been declining over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their current population;
- (c) whether any project has been launched for their conservation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount earmarked for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Snow Leopard is one of the most elusive animals, found in the high altitudes of Himalayan region. Very little is known about the ecology and population status of Snow Leopards. There are no reports available in the Ministry indicating any decline in population of Snow Leopard in India. Though, no comprehensive & exhaustive estimation of Snow Leopards have been carried out in the country, as per an estimate, there are 400-700 Snow Leopards in India.

(c) & (d): A 'Project Snow Leopard' has been launched by the Ministry of Environment & Forests on 20th January 2009 with the following objectives:

- (i) Facilitating landscape-level approach to wildlife conservation;
- (ii) Rationalizing the existing Protected Area network and improving Protected Area management;
- (iii) Developing a framework for wildlife conservation outside Protected Areas and promote ecologically responsible development;
- (iv) Encouraging focused conservation & recovery programmes for Snow Leopard;
- (v) Promoting stronger measures for wildlife protection and law enforcement;
- (vi) Promoting better understanding and management of human-animal conflict;
- (vii) Restoring degraded landscapes;
- (viii) Promoting a knowledge-based approach to conservation and an adaptive framework for wildlife management;
- (ix) Reducing existing anthropogenic pressures on natural resources;
- (x) Promoting conservation education and awareness.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (Component- 'Recovery Programme for Critically Endangered Species'), Government of India provides financial & technical assistance to the concerned States for implementing the activities envisaged under the 'Project Snow Leopard'. Each year, the proposals received from the State Governments, in the form of Annual Plan of Operations, are considered by the Central Government subject to the availability of funds and fulfillment of necessary procedural requirements. The details of funds released under this component to the concerned States during the last financial year (2008-09) are as below:

Sl, .No Name of the State Amount
(in Rs. lakhs)

1	Jammu & Kashmir	126.00
2	Uttarakhand	86.40

