

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:121
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
ILLEGAL TRADE OF ANIMAL PARTS
Patil Shri Shivaji Adhalrao;Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

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

- (a) whether cases of illegal trade of wildlife and its parts across the international borders have been reported in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the neighbouring countries and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared an Environmental and Social Framework Document in consultation with World Bank to strengthen regional cooperation in wildlife conservation and protection;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance sought/received from the World Bank for the project; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to intensify wildlife preservation, protection and conservation efforts?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a), (b), (c),(d) and (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) AND (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 121 REGARDING "ILLEGAL TRADE OF ANIMAL PARTS" BY SHRI. SHRIRANG APPA BARNE AND SHRI. ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO FOR REPLY ON 16.07.2014:

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. Wildlife in the country is under stress due to illegal trade of wildlife and their parts. Illegal trade is demand driven and demand especially for the Indian iconic species is from international markets. Indian wild species and their parts most commonly reported in illegal trade are – tiger, rhinoceros, elephant, leopard, snow leopard, chiru, civet cat, otter, bear, musk deer, tortoise, turtles, reptiles, pangolins, sea cucumber, sea horse, tockay gecko and birds such as grey jungle fowl, parakeets, owls and mynas etc.

The number of cases of illegal trade of endangered flora and fauna detected at exit points during last three years are as under:

Year	Violation		Total	
	CITES	Wild Life Protection Act, 1972	EXIM Policy	
2011-12	122	91	99	312
2012-13	82	84	56	222
2013-14	172	49	36	256

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has been mandated to, inter alia, co-ordinate with law enforcing agencies and international organizations and to facilitate universal action for wildlife crime control and also to implement obligations under the various international Conventions and protocols that have been ratified or acceded to by India.

Since its constitution, the Bureau has been taking up the issues related to illegal trade in wildlife with various foreign authorities including neighbouring countries and international organizations such as INTERPOL and CITES Secretariat. The major steps taken in this regard with the neighbouring countries are as under:

- (i) Wildlife smuggling has been included in the agenda of bilateral meetings on border cooperation between India and Myanmar. An MoU on border cooperation has also been signed between India and Myanmar. The MoU includes designation of Nodal points and sharing of information for wildlife crime control.
- (ii) Trans-border illegal wildlife trade is discussed in the Transboundary consultative meetings on biodiversity conservation between Nepal and India.

(iii) Illegal trade in wildlife is discussed in the bilateral meetings on wildlife management between India and China.

(iv) WCCB representatives are attending meetings of South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) and ASEAN – Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN), and taking up the issues of mutual interest on illegal wildlife trade with the representatives of Member States.

(v) Efforts are on to include wildlife smuggling in the agenda for bilateral interactions with relevant neighbouring countries.

(vi) India has signed a Protocol with Republic of China AND Bangladesh for taking up joint measures to crack down on illegal activities of poaching of tigers, smuggling and selling of tiger bones and their derivatives. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Nepal to establish a Joint Task Force to check trafficking across the borders.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. An Environment and Social Framework Document in consultation with World Bank was part of development of a project entitled "Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia" proposed in 2011-12 for IDA funding of US\$ 30 Million from World Bank under Third Phase of Adaptable Programme Lending. The project was part of "Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection" project of the World bank.

(i) Capacity building for wildlife conservation and cooperation for addressing the illegal trans-boundary wildlife trade (US\$ 20.52 million): For regional harmonization and collaboration in cross-border wildlife conservation and management, combating wildlife crime through strengthened legislative and regulatory frameworks, enforcement agencies, as well as relevant training and awareness programs for staff across the range of agencies that contribute to the enforcement of wildlife laws and regulations namely the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

(ii) Promoting Wildlife Conservation in Asia (US\$2.95 million): The objective of this component is to generate and share knowledge as well as technical expertise by promoting research and innovative approaches on emerging challenges in wildlife conservation.

(iii) Project coordination and communication (US\$5.04 million): Under this component, expenditure of US\$ 0.76 million is estimated for project management and monitoring. The remaining amount is to be spent on project communications, wherein a multi-pronged approach will be adopted to communications in order to meet regional and local challenges.

However, the credit agreement has not been signed with the World Bank and negotiations have not been held so far. No financial assistance has been received from the World Bank.

(e) Step taken by the Government to intensify wildlife conservation efforts are as follows:

1. Hunting and commercial exploitation of wild animals included in various schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 are prohibited. Offences committed in respect of these species attract punishment prescribed under the Act.
2. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to strengthen the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
3. Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
4. Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats", "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant" for providing better protection to wildlife and improvement of its habitat.
5. The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.