

Rise in cases of poaching in the country

‡2032. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the lack of safety for wildlife all over the country has resulted in rising cases of poaching;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any plan to stop such incidents; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Incidents of poaching of wild animals have been reported from the State/UT Governments from time to time. However, there are no definite reports of increase in the incidents of poaching.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Steps taken by the Government to check poaching activities are as follows:—

1. Threatened species of wildlife are listed in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve and protect wildlife and their habitats.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
5. Financial and technical assistance is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.

Protection of flora and fauna inside forest area

2033. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.