

Endangered species in forest of Assam

2190. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of areas covered, number of wild animals and plants available, including endangered species of plants and animals found within the various Wild Life Sanctuaries, National Park and Reserve Forests in Assam;

(b) the details of the forest land area being encroached and wild animals killed by the poachers in the aforesaid area; and

(c) the details of the action taken and achievement made against the killing of rhinoceros, tigers and other wild animals since a forest areas in Assam was declared as Wild Life Sanctuaries or National Park or Reserve Forest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The management of wild animals and plants, including the endangered species of plants and animals found within the Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks and Reserve Forests, along with the protection of such areas including forest areas against encroachment and poaching, is looked after by the Government of Assam. The information relating to the above matters, including the details of action taken and achievement made against the killing of rhinoceros, tigers and other wild animals since declaration of areas as Wildlife Sanctuary, National Park, or Reserved Forest are not compiled in the Ministry.

Sharing of information on swiss bank accounts

2191. DR BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swiss Central Bank and Swiss National Bank have reportedly issued statements that around \$2.5 billion deposits held in Swiss Banks belonged to Indians;

(b) whether most of the money has been withdrawn by the Indians from Swiss banks and deposited in third country's banks;

(c) whether the Swiss Parliament has given its consent to share information with Indian Government on banking transactions after April, 2011;

(d) if so, the details of information received so far; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to bring back Indian money from Swiss Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM):

(a) As per information available on the website of Swiss National Bank, the total liabilities of Swiss Banks towards Indians, including in the fiduciary business, as on 31st December, 2010 was 1.945 billion CHF (approximately Rs. 9,295 crores).

(b) There is no information available in this regard.

(c) and (d) Protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Switzerland has been signed on 30th August, 2010. It will enter into force on completion of internal procedure by Switzerland. Switzerland has informed that the Amending Protocol has been approved by the Parliament of Switzerland on 17th June, 2011. Switzerland has also informed that they are committed to complete the remaining procedure. Upon entry into force, the revised DTAA will allow India to obtain banking information (as well as information without domestic interest) from Switzerland in specific cases for a period starting from 1st April 2011.

(e) In order to get the black money back to the country, a five pronged strategy has been formulated by the Government as under:

- i. Joining the global crusade against 'black money' (for example our action in G 20, Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, Task Force on Financial Integrity and Economic Development, Financial Action Task Force, United Nations, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, etc.)
- ii. Creating an appropriate legislative framework: (Various anti tax evasion measures legislated in existing Act and proposed in the Direct Taxes Code, New DTAA's and Tax Information Exchange Agreements, amend existing DTAA's)
- iii. Setting up institutions for dealing with Illicit Funds; (10 Income Tax Overseas Units, dedicated computerized Exchange of Information (EOI) Unit, Financial Intelligence Unit.
- iv. Developing systems for implementation (new manpower policy); and
- v. Imparting skills to the manpower for effective action (constant training for skill development).