

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, I wish to convey to the hon. Home Minister just now through this one-minute intervention that the crime situation in Delhi will not improve ever until and unless you remove one of the most \*. ...*(Interruptions)*... \* ...*(Interruptions)*... Remove him. ...*(Interruptions)*... Suspend him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Yesterday, I have handed over a thick volume of papers showing the kinds of \*. ...*(Interruptions)*...

---

### ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

#### Conservation of one horned rhinoes in Assam

\*341. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of one horned rhinoes died in Assam during the last ten years;
- (b) the details of steps taken to protect and preserve one horned rhinoes and funds released, so far for the purpose;
- (c) whether Government is satisfied with the present steps taken by the local authority to protect the life of the one horned rhinoes; and
- (d) if so, whether the remaining one horned rhinoes are totally protected in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### *Statement*

- (a) As per the information received from the State Government of Assam, the number of one horned rhinoceros died in Assam due to poaching and natural causes during the period from 2002 to 14.12.2012 is 1008.

---

\*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the State Government to protect and preserve one horned rhinos in Assam:

1. Government of Assam has granted the power to use firearms to forest officers at all levels for protection of the forest and wildlife in the state under section 197 of the Criminal Procedure Code vide state notification no. FRW.22/2009/5 dated 14.7.2010.

Immunity from prosecution without the prior sanction from the state government has also been granted to all the forest officers in the state. This has given a big morale boost to the staff engaged in the protection of the rhino and other wildlife species.

2. Government of Assam has enhanced the maximum punishment to the poachers up to life imprisonment and a minimum fine of Rs. 75,000 through the amendment of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 vide 'The Wildlife (Protection) (Assam Amendment) Act, 2009'. The wildlife related offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable through this amendment by the state government.
3. Two new battalions of the Assam Forest Protection Force have been raised for protection of the forest and wildlife including the rhino bearing areas of the state.
4. Sufficient numbers of anti-poaching camps have been constructed in all rhino bearing areas of the state.
5. Infrastructure viz. road network, patrolling path, anti-poaching camps, vehicles, boats, departmental elephants etc. have been improved/enhanced over the years.
6. Armed Home guards and local youth have been deployed in the rhino bearing areas of the state to augment the strength of the field staff.
7. Sophisticated arms (Self Loading Rifles) have been deployed in the rhino bearing areas of the state to match the weapons used by the poachers.
8. Management interventions for protection and maintenance of the rhino habitat have been taken up on regular basis.
9. Close coordination with the civil and police administration is being maintained in the field for efficient tackling of the poachers.

10. Programmes on education and awareness are being regularly organised in the field involving local people and civil society.
11. In order to ensure the long term survival of the rhinos in the state, the translocation of rhinos from Kaziranga National Park (NP) and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) to the Manas NP has been taken up.

Central Government has provided financial assistance to the State Government of Assam under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (CSS-IDWH) and 'Project Tiger' (CSS-PT) for better management of its protected areas (PAs). The funds released during the last three years for the four PAs of Assam (namely Kaziranga NP, Manas NP, Pobitora WLS and Rajiv Gandhi Orang NP) where the rhino bearing areas exist, under the CSS-PT, CSS-IDWH and State Plan are given below:

Year	CSS-PT	CSS-IDWH	State Plan	Total (Rupees in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Kaziranga National Park:</b>				
2009-10	321.79	0	-	321.79
2010-11	1164.652	0	28.25	1192.902
2011-12	468.884	0	33.11	501.994
2012-13 (as on 30.11.2012)	-	-	-	-
<b>Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park:</b>				
2009-10	0	3.40	-	3.4
2010-11	0	0	17.00	17.00
2011-12	0	46.72	17.40	64.12
2012-13 (as on 30.11.2012)	0	14.44	-	14.44
<b>Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary:</b>				
2009-10	0	15.025	0	15.025
2010-11	0	0	6.70	6.70
2011-12	0	41.55	14.55	56.10
2012-13 (as on 30.11.2012)	0	18.355	-	18.355

